

**TOPIC C:
WHAT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS NEED TO BE EXPLORED FOR
EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COOPERATION**

ACTION	SUGGESTED DISCUSSION
Identify the main initiatives in the international arena	<p>ICAO - in May 2003 adopted a global blueprint for the integration of biometric identification information into passports and machine readable documents - including visas and identity cards - facial recognition and states have option to include one or two secondary biometrics to supplement facial recognition</p> <p>International Standards Organization - standards for ID cards, image technology, machine readable travel documents, biometric standards, UNIDO/ISO partnership, ISO assistance.</p> <p>ISO/IEC - Joint Technical Committee on Information Technology - including subcommittee on biometrics to ensure high priority, focussed and comprehensive approach to the development and approval of formal international biometric standards</p> <p>International Labour Organisation - in June 2003 adopted a global convention to require commercial seafarers to carry new biometric identity cards - fingerprint, face, hand, or iris data.</p> <p>UNCHR - investigating the use of biometrics in the registration of refugees, with a view to developing a standardised worldwide registration system to help identify refugees in need of resettlement.</p> <p>EU - in June 2003 the European Council agreed to use biometrics data in visas and passports as part of a coherent approach to reduce document counterfeiting and identity fraud - most likely fingerprints and eye scans</p> <p>US - visits program</p>

ACTION	SUGGESTED DISCUSSION
Identify role of international standards in regional initiatives	<p>APEC - Advance Passenger Information Systems, APEC Business Travel Card Scheme, best practice travel document examination, standards for immigration legal infrastructure</p> <p>ASEAN - Regional Forum, Statement on Counter-Terrorist Action on Border Security - cooperative actions for strengthening border security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common global standards for collection and transmission of API - support efforts to achieve agreement on minimum standards for issue of travel documents and identity documents - support development of means for sharing data for purposes of incorporation into regional alert systems - support ICAO work towards developing minimum standards for the application of biometrics in procedures and documents - improve procedures for sharing data on lost or stolen passports
Identify what countries are doing now	<p>Significance that countries gave/are giving to the incorporation of international systems in their processes - which standards?</p> <p>Issues of concern or constraints to adopting international standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compatibility of systems - changes to business processes required - cost
Identify benefits of adopting international standards	<p>Aligned to the rest of the world</p> <p>No need to 'reinvent the wheel' - common use, common knowledge, common requirements</p> <p>Consistency</p> <p>Cost savings - 'off the shelf' packages, training efficiencies</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>Faster processing of travellers around the world</p> <p>Easier to participate in regional or other cooperation - e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advance passenger information programs - alert systems
Identify risks of not adopting international standards	<p>Other countries may make it difficult to cross their borders</p> <p>Perpetrators may identify ineffective or non-existent ID systems and take advantage of them</p> <p>Systems not compatible with the region / rest of the world.</p>
SUMMARISE AND REPORT	<p>What are the main international standards initiatives?</p> <p>What is the relevance of these standards to countries and to the region?</p> <p>Why should countries adopt international standards?</p> <p>What do countries need to do before they can adopt the standards?</p> <p>What to do next?</p>