**DRAFT Concept Note**

***Regional Conference on Migration***

 ***Proposal for a Workshop on Passport Integrity***

**Context**

The integrity of passports and other travel documents is a key component of national and international anti-crime and anti-terrorism strategies. Moreover travel documents can be powerful tools in the hands of criminals or terrorists, controlling the security of a country’s travel document and its issuance processes directly impacts not only national and international security but also international respect for the integrity of the document.

In recent years, the rapid development and addition of new technologies and security techniques has led to a shift of travel document fraud. In the past, people who committed fraud concentrated on altering or forging the physical documents themselves. The widespread adoption of new document technologies and the systems to support their authentication has forced fraudsters to target more vulnerable components of the passport issuance process, namely the “breeder” documents” (ex. birth certificates, driver’s licenses, etc.) that are used as proof of identity/status in the issuance process. Defrauding the beginning of the chain can result in the issuance of a genuine travel document based on fraudulent “breeder” documents. Consequently, countries should be particularly concerned with the security of handling and issuance processes to help prevent the issuance of legitimate documents to terrorists or criminals under false identities.

Controlling the security of a country’s passport issuance process has not only a direct impact on

National and international security but also on the international respect accorded to the documents’ integrity. The level of security and the reputation of a passport can also have serious repercussions on the convenience and expediency of international border crossing for citizens of that country. The integrity of the passport, and other travel documents, is a key component of national and international anti-crime and anti-terrorism strategies.

While passport integrity is necessary for national and international security, issuing authorities are also faced with the challenge of finding the correct balance between security, service, privacy and cost. However, fraud prevention is undeniably more efficient and much less costly than dealing with the consequences of successful fraud.

The passport workshop will offer an opportunity for Canada, Mexico and other interested RCM member countries, to discuss and understand possible threats in all aspects of the travel document issuance process; how threats can be dealt with and for participants to share their best practices and lessons learned regarding implementation of their respective passport systems.

**Proposed Approach**

Canada and Mexico are therefore proposing a two-day workshop, in a place and date to be determined, to facilitate an exchange of ideas and information on the fundamentals of passport issuance, trends in fraud, new technologies to combat criminal behaviour among RCM member countries.

**Logistics**

*Tentative Date*: TBD

*Location*: TBD

*Format*: Two-day workshop with presentations and time for questions and plenary discussions

**Participants**

* All RCM member countries, international organizations and civil society.

**Overview of Agenda**

Topics to be covered may include:

* Exchange knowledge on challenges faced in the operational environment to develop best practices in dealing with partners (civil registration authorities and service delivery partners);
* Exchange counter-fraud experiences, effective strategies to combat integrity risks including identity and fraud management, and issuance based on “breeder documents”; fraud detection and deterrence, counter-fraud tools, etc.;
* Share best practices on developing an integrated approach to combating fraud (operations, management of information, business assurance, education and communication, performance management);
* Secure management of materials and blank books;
* Document security and adherence to ICAO travel document standards, recommended practices;
* Facility security;
* Information Technology (IT) security;
* Personnel training;
* Lost and stolen travel document control and reporting; and
* Overseas issuance.