ICAO
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
A UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY
RECONNECTING THE WORLD

Verifiable Health Credentials for International Travel

A Use Case with Unique Considerations

ITU/WHO Workshop

11 September 2023

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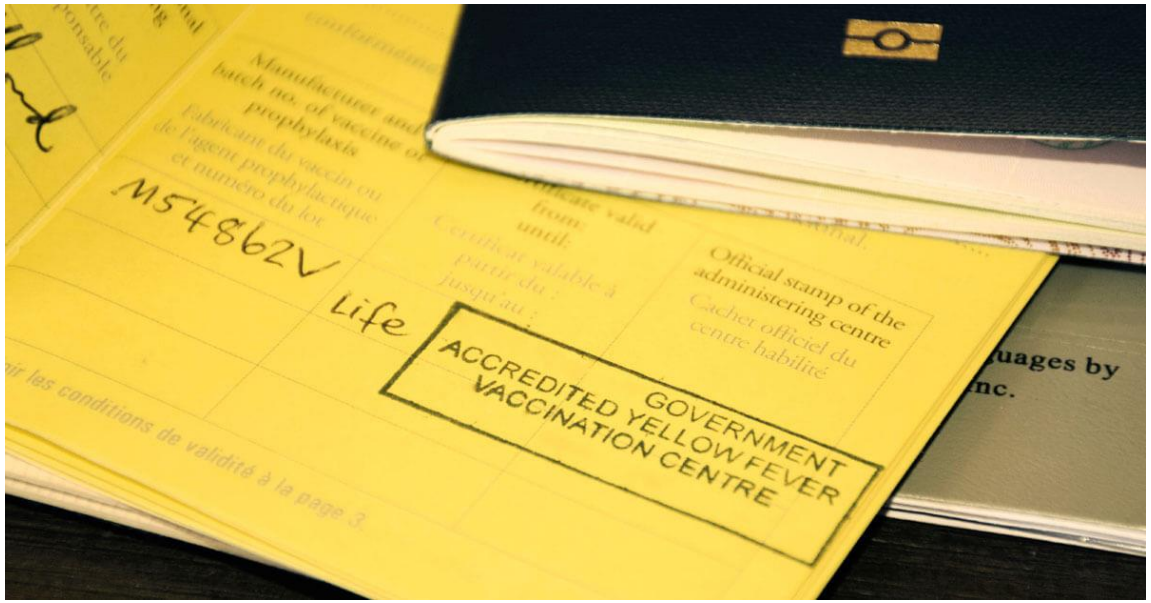
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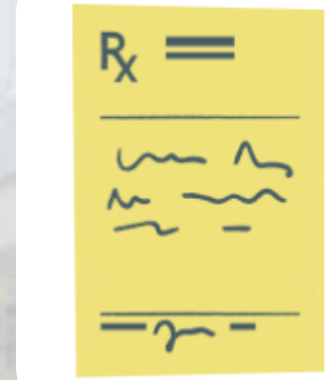
Life
GOVERNMENT
ACCREDITED YELLOW FEVER
VACCINATION CENTRE
Official stamp of the
administering centre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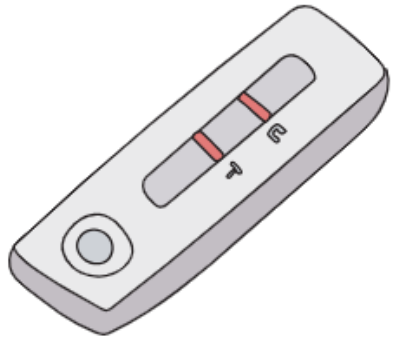
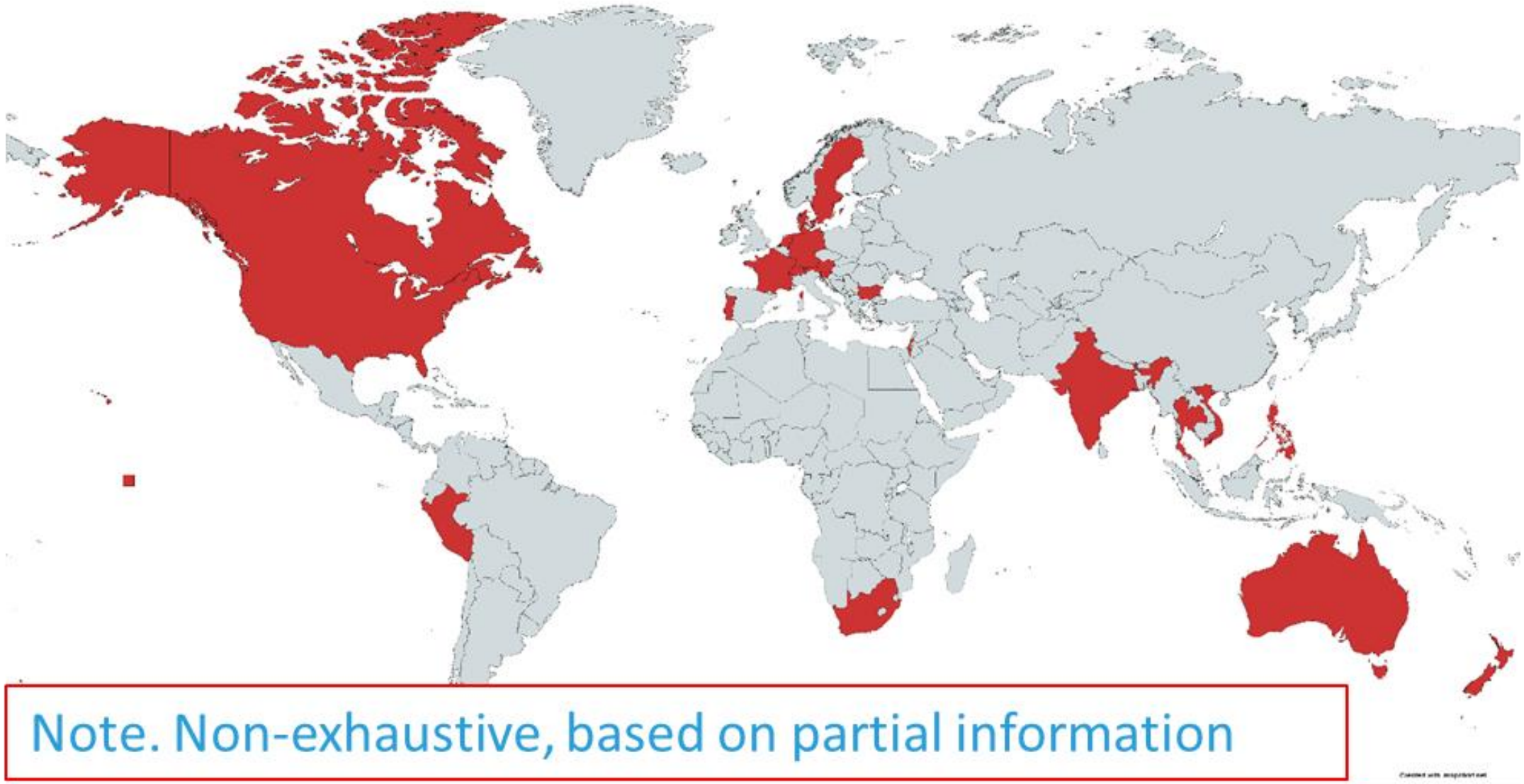
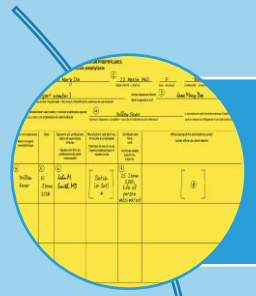




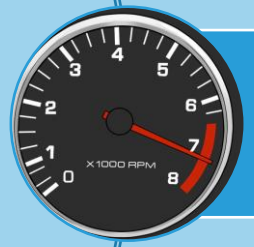
Note. Non-exhaustive, based on partial information

March 2022

Health credentials in travel



Strong historical basis

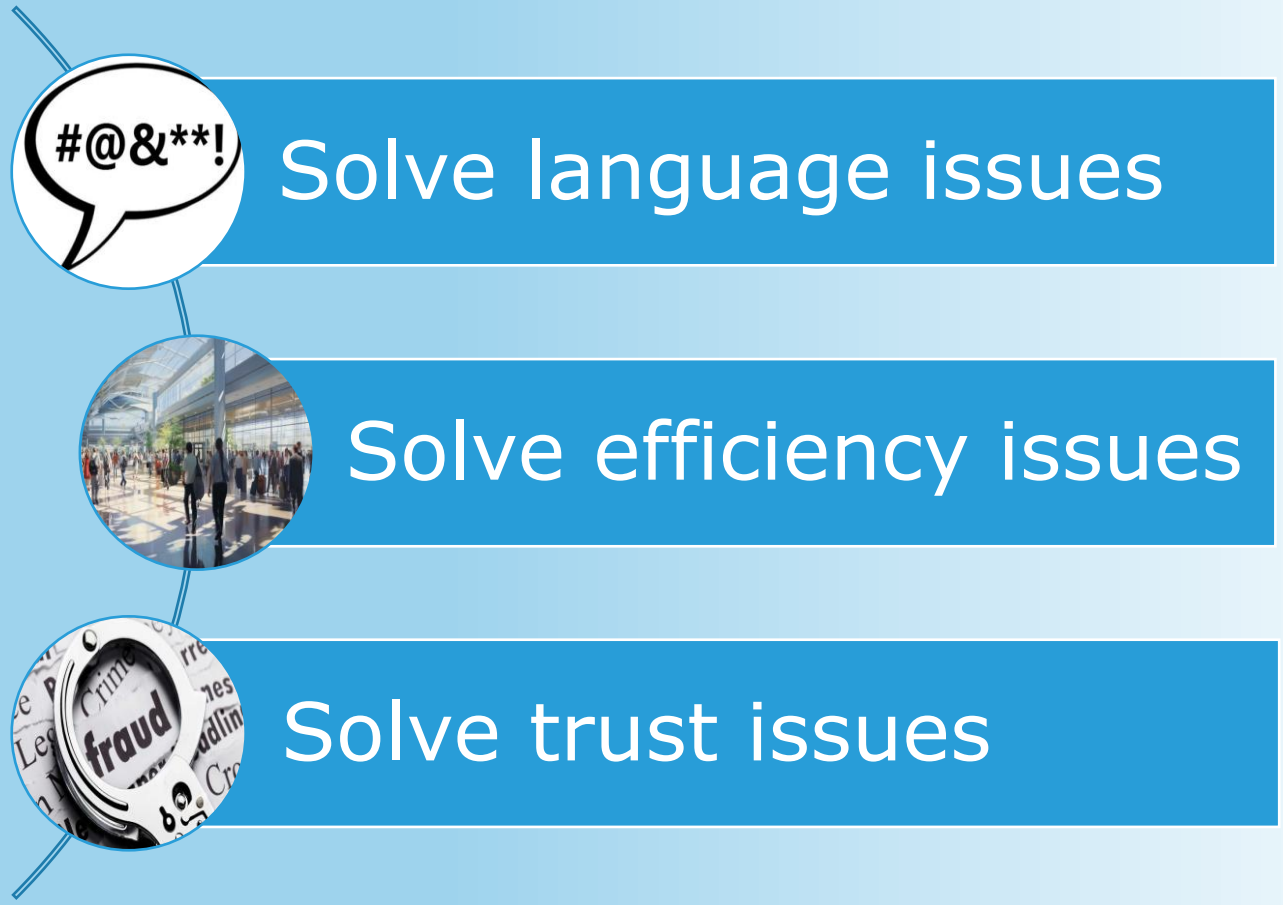


Strong demand

Ubiquitous

- An important use case

Digital Health credentials in travel



- Strong case for digitization

Digital Health credentials in travel

Secure IT environments, slow to update

Strong data trust requirements

Lack of medical expertise

- A challenging use case

COVID-19

A Test Case for Digitization of Health Credentials in International Travel

COVID-19

A Test Case for Digitization of Health Credentials in International Travel

Lack of clarity

Limited standardization
No international infrastructure
Lack of trust

Limited integration

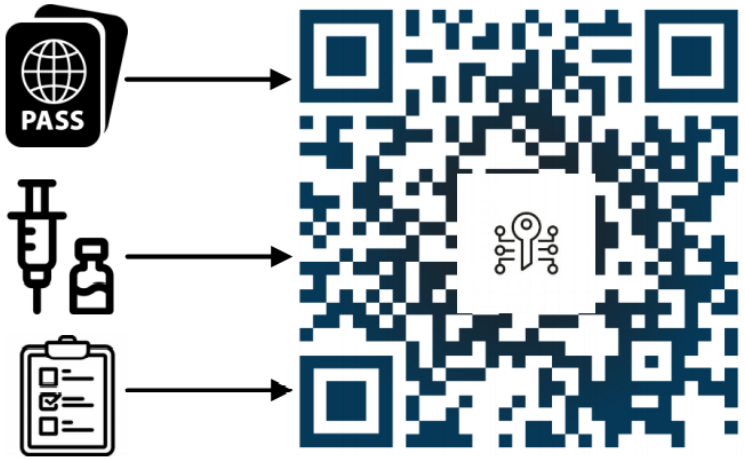
Credentials reviewed manually, inefficiently, erroneously

ICAO solutions to address some challenges

ICAO VDS-NC

ICAO Health Master List

ICAO VDS-NC



Clarity — Understandable in travel

- Dataset defined with travel in mind
- Designated fields for easy decision automation

Integration — Trust in travel

- Re-uses existing travel document trust framework
- Adaptable to different health system arrangements

Efficiency — Ease of use in travel

- Cheap and easy to issue
- Cheap and easy to verify at borders

ICAO Health Master List

Integration

Trust in travel

- An international trust list, easing the burden on individual States
- Open and flexible to build trust across regions

Efficiency

Ease of use in travel

- Provides roots of trust in “plug in” format for borders
- Easily integrated, without addition of new capabilities, to offer automated verification of health proofs at borders

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Verifiable health credentials for travel

Summary

- A clear and on-going use case
- A necessary but challenging use case
- Consider data, automation possibilities, costs etc.
- Improve usability - integrated infrastructure, re-use of capabilities and leveraging of experiences

Thank You

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