Visa Facilitation

- Visa provide essential functions
  - Immigration Control
  - Security
  - Limitation of duration of stay and activities
  - Application of measures of reciprocity

- However … visa also act as a constraint to international travel and its economic benefits
Visa Facilitation – Global Summary 2013

• On average 2/3 of the world’s population need a visa prior to departure
• 18 % without a visa
• 15 % visa on arrival
• 3 % eVisa

• Between 2010 and 13, 44 destinations significantly facilitated the visa for citizens of 20 or more countries

• The most common facilitation measure: ‘Visa on arrival’
Visa Facilitation in the Silk Road Countries
Evolution
2013: World population affected by…

**Global**
- Visa required: 64%
- Visa on arrival: 18%
- No visa required: 15%
- eVisa: 3%

**Silk Road countries**
- Visa required: 73%
- Visa on arrival: 12%
- No visa required: 11%
- eVisa: 4%

*World Tourism Organization | a specialized Agency of the United Nations*
World population affected by Silk Road Visa policies, 2008-2013

Traditional visa decreased from 87% to 73%
A comparison: world population affected, 2013

**World**
- 2008: 77%
- 2010: 75%
- 2012: 63%
- 2013: 64%

**Silk Road**
- 2008: 87%
- 2010: 85%
- 2012: 74%
- 2013: 73%

*World Tourism Organization | a specialized Agency of the United Nations*
Markets affected by visa policies of the Silk Road countries

• Between 2008 and 2013, Silk Road countries have reduced the requirement for traditional visas for citizens of all regions around the world
• Citizens benefitting most from this policy change were those from the **Americas**
• In 2013, citizens of **Western and Northern Europe** faced least visa restrictions when visiting the Silk Road countries
• From the promising source markets (BRICS), especially Russian and Chinese citizens benefitted the most from visa facilitation measurements between 2008 – 2013
Markets affected by visa policies of the Silk Road countries

Citizens of Europe travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 4%
- eVisa: 12%
- Visa on arrival: 35%
- No visa required: 48%

Citizens of the Americas travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 5%
- eVisa: 15%
- Visa on arrival: 32%
- No visa required: 48%

Citizens of Africa travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 7%
- eVisa: 8%
- Visa on arrival: 81%

Citizens of the Middle East travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 4%
- eVisa: 8%
- Visa on arrival: 81%

Citizens of the Asia and the Pacific travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 3%
- eVisa: 12%
- Visa on arrival: 81%

Citizens of Africa travelling to the Silk Road
- Visa required: 3%
- eVisa: 4%
- Visa on arrival: 91%
Openness

The openness index ranges from 0 to 100 and indicates to what extent a destination is facilitating tourism. The higher the score the better.
Openness

- Silk Road openness improved from 11 to 28 between 2008 and 2013
- The world’s openness improved from 20 to 30 between 2008 and 2013
- Emerging economies drove the process
Drivers of change

- Between 2010 and 2013 Silk Road countries facilitated visa requirements for 724 destination-source market pairs.
- The 724 improvements represent 14% of all improvements made globally.
- Significant changes (20 or more) were predominant.
- Most common change was visa on arrival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Number of improvements</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>119</td>
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<td>Tajikistan</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
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<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal: 650

Other Silk Road destinations: 74

Total positive changes made between 2010 and 2013 in the Silk Road: 724
Reciprocity

Visa policies implemented on a reciprocal basis
Silk Road reciprocal policies, 2013

- **Open** reciprocity was 16% and increased from 13% in 2008

- Mutually **closed policies** were 50% and decreased from 70% in 2008
Open reciprocity among members of selected economic blocs and the Silk Road, 2013

- Advanced economies of the Silk Road are have high open reciprocity
- The improvement of openness was driven by the emerging Silk Road countries
- Mainly due to unilateral facilitation measurements
Reciprocity

Between the Silk Road countries and non-Silk Road countries open reciprocity increased from 10% in 2008 to 13% in 2013
Open reciprocity among members and between members and non-members of the Silk Road and selected economic blocs, 2013

- OECD: Open reciprocity among members (83%) and between members and non-members (23%)
- G20: Open reciprocity among members (65%) and between members and non-members (20%)
- SADC: Open reciprocity among members (42%) and between members and non-members (8%)
- APEC: Open reciprocity among members (40%) and between members and non-members (20%)
- BSEC: Open reciprocity among members (35%) and between members and non-members (16%)
- Silk Road: Open reciprocity among members (16%) and between members and non-members (13%)
Building on the Samarkland Declaration of 1994

The way ahead…
Thank you!

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