



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02585**

BY: **MR. TABBARA (KITCHENER SOUTH-HESPELER)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

SUDAN

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Biometrics expansion is intended to facilitate travel for legitimate travelers, build confidence in Canada's immigration programs, increase the safety and security of all Canadians and travelers to Canada, and prevent abuse of the immigration system. Biometric immigration screening is recognized globally as a reliable tool for establishing identity and is becoming the international standard, with more than 70 countries using biometrics for migration control.

Canada's biometrics collection program will be expanded globally in two phases: since July 31, 2018, citizens from countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa have been required to provide their biometric information (photograph and fingerprints) in support of their application for temporary or permanent residence. As of December 31, 2018, this requirement will apply to citizens from countries in Asia, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

To reduce the compliance burden on clients, biometrics provided in support of a temporary resident visa, status or permit will be valid for 10 years from the date of enrolment to support a subsequent or new temporary resident visa, status or permit.

Canada is constantly monitoring its Visa Application Centre network to ensure it meets the needs of applicants. It has one of the most extensive Visa Application Centre networks in the world and between 96% and 98% of applicants can access a Visa Application Centre in their country of residence. Visa Application Centre locations were selected based on various factors, including geographic distribution of clients and past temporary resident application trends, with the goal of limiting inconvenience for applicants. That said, it is not always possible to open a Visa Application Centre in certain locations, due to a number of factors, including the security situation in the country.

Canada is monitoring its Visa Application Centre service footprint and Visa Application Centres may be opened in additional locations at a later date.