

ICAO REGIONAL TRIP SEMINAR

Montego Bay, 28 November 2017

Opening Remarks

**Ms. Jennifer Bramlette, Legal Officer
United Nations Security Council
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of CTED, I wish to express my gratitude to ICAO for inviting me here today. Allow me to begin by briefly describing the role and mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, or CTC, and its Executive Directorate, or CTED, and how we cooperate with ICAO.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks against the United States, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373 (2001), a far-reaching resolution, which charted the way forward in the fight against terrorism. The resolution established the CTC, which consists of all 15 members of the Security Council, to monitor the implementation of this resolution and issues relating to terrorism. The Committee is supported in its work by CTED, which implements the Committee's policy decisions and conducts expert assessment visits to Member States.

The purpose of the country assessment visits is to work with Member States to assess their overall national counter-terrorism efforts; their good practices, and the challenges they face. A key component of a country visit is to identify where technical assistance from the international community may be needed and then to facilitate the provision of technical assistance.

The visits include consultations with the host Government and, where possible, on-site visits to relevant locations or facilities, such as airports and external border checkpoints. In the Caribbean Region, CTED recently completed such a visit to Jamaica, and has previously visited Guyana and Suriname.

The visiting teams are led by CTED and include experts from a number of international, regional and subregional organizations. Whenever possible, ICAO takes part in our country visits and plays a critical role in the evaluation of States' implementation efforts regarding aviation security and border control.

Resolution 1373 - and many subsequent Council resolutions on terrorism - address many issues of relevance to civil aviation and border security. To mention just a few:

- Resolution 1624 calls upon all States to cooperate to strengthen the security of their international borders by combating fraudulent documents and enhancing screening measures.

- Effective border management is of particular importance in the context of resolution 2178, on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, or FTFs.
- Resolution 2322 calls upon States to share biometric and biographic information and encourages States to consider extending access to the INTERPOL I-24/7 at strategic locations such as airports.
- Resolution 2309 expresses concern that terrorist groups continue to view civil aviation as an attractive target and identifies a number of steps for Member States to take in order to strengthen implementation of the ICAO standards.

Security Council Resolution 2309 sets forth a number of good aviation practices including enhancing screening and security checks, ensuring appropriate resources and effective quality controls, and, significantly, promoting effective security culture. Failure to understand security threats and risks, and a resulting failure to put in place appropriate mitigation measures, can lead to significant security gaps. It cannot be over-stressed that gaps in basic security measures create aviation-security vulnerabilities that can easily be exploited and circumvented by terrorists.

In light of evolving and emerging terrorist threats and new technological developments, CTED strongly supports and promotes ICAO's standards, recommended practices and guidance materials. New and updated guidance materials developed by ICAO should be fully utilized in order to better address the evolving terrorist threat to civil aviation. CTED fully backs the ICAO TRIP Strategy and is working closely with ICAO to facilitate the Strategy's implementation in all regions and subregions. The new ICAO TRIP Strategy Compendium for Traveller Identification Management, and the ICAO TRIP Guide on Border Control Management that we will be working on this week are prime examples of best ways forward for aviation and border security.

As much as we all understand that effective border security is the first line of defence against the movement of terrorists across borders, maintaining secure air borders is extremely challenging for many States throughout the world. While much of the challenge comes from the determination of terrorists and criminals to circumvent security using ever-more-advanced measures, CTED has noted through its work that the primary challenges are on the side of the Member States. These challenges typically derive from a lack of financial and human resources, lack of equipment and specialized skills, and lack of intra-State and inter-State cooperation.

To overcome these challenges, it is essential that States treat civil-aviation security in a holistic manner; that they update their threat and risk assessment methodologies; that they ensure their institutions have appropriate mandates, resources, and procedures for inter-operability and cooperation. It is also imperative that States with greater capacities, relevant regional and international organizations, and even private entities increase the level of technical assistance delivered to States in need.

To conclude, let me reassure you that CTED will continue to intensify its efforts to strengthen the security of civil aviation, including through cooperation with ICAO in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to assist States, in accordance with the ICAO standards and with United Nations Resolutions. *Thank you.*