

Opening Remarks by Mr. Melvin Cintron, ICAO Regional Director
NACC Regional Office to the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP)
Seminar
(Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 to 30 November 2017)

Mr. Nari William-Singh, Director General, Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority

Mr. Brian Quigley, Deputy Executive Secretary, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization of American States

Mr. Marco Ospina, Secretary General, Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)*

Distinguished Government representatives here present

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Secretary General of ICAO, Dr. Fang Liu, I am delighted to welcome you today at the opening of this important Seminar on the latest developments in the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Strategy which includes Machine Readable Travel documents (MRTDs), border facilitation and identity management.

2. ICAO is indeed sincerely thankful to the Civil Aviation Authority of Jamaica for its provision of such excellent organization and facilities in support of this objective, and for its warm welcome and hospitality.

3. The ICAO TRIP strategy helps to harmonize the global line of defence in our shared battles: confronting international terrorist movements, cross border crime, and the many other threats to the safety and security of civil society and international aviation. The Strategy has been recognized for its contributions to United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2178, 2309 and 2368, adopted in 2014, 2016, and 2017 respectively.

4. The enhancement of aviation security and facilitation are twin and reciprocal objectives. Facilitation focusses on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of passenger processing, with the added benefit of enhancing passengers' air travel experience. These efforts have largely been guided by consecutive amendments to Annex 9 – Facilitation.

5. Indeed, along with enhanced screening and security checks, the Counter-Terrorism Committee also highlighted the important role of global airlines in tracking the movement of higher risk passengers. Specifically, it recognized the importance of national authorities sharing advanced passenger information (API) to help mitigate associated risks.

6. Much more progress remains to be achieved with respect to the implementation of API systems. Many States have not yet introduced related programmes. As of 23 October of this year, however, I would like to remind all States that API sharing is mandatory under Annex 9.

7. Following this obligation, ICAO expects that a much greater degree of API sharing will take place. This is supported by the nearly complete global transition to machine readable passports.

8. MRTDs are a corner stone of ICAO's Traveller Identification Programme, or "TRIP Strategy". The Programme primary objectives are to strengthen the interconnected State capacities relating to the establishment, protection and management of citizen identity, and secondly to determine secure systems of travel document production and border control facilitation, which benefit from effectively managed identity frameworks.

9. With the global transition to machine-readable passports now nearly complete, ICAO would like to remind its Member States that 24 November of 2015 was the deadline by which all non-machine readable passports should have been removed from global circulation. It is therefore critical that States encourage their citizens to renew any remaining non-machine-readable passports in circulation in their national systems without delay. As of today, 143 of ICAO's 192

Member States are fully compliant; and at a regional level, all NAAC States are now issuing MRPs.

10. In the area of ePassport implementation, more than 110 of ICAO's 192 Member States are now issuing ePassports. There are already some 636 million currently circulating. While ePassports are a key contributor to effective border integrity, I would like to stress, however, that the issuance of ePassports is only a Recommended Practice and not mandated by an ICAO Standard.

11. Another issue that pertains to ePassport implementation is the reality that a significant number of States are still not using the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) to verify and authenticate their ePassports. PKD permits States to capitalize on the full security and facilitation benefits that ePassports are meant to deliver, and that intensified advocacy efforts are needed by all players to underscore goal of the PKD as an essential element of effective border integrity.

12. Another key aspect is States' obligation to prevent the re-use of stolen, lost or revoked travel documents. ICAO's State Letter, of 24 July of this year, urges Member States to implement Standard 3.10. This Standard requires the prompt and accurate reporting of these documents to INTERPOL for inclusion in the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database. It also encourages States to adopt Recommended Practice 3.10.1, encouraging the querying of travel documents against this INTERPOL database at all border control points.

13. ICAO is determined to establish a more systematic approach to assist States in the implementation of ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), including those relating to Doc 9303 specifications and other policies supporting the ICAO TRIP. These efforts are consistent with ICAO's ongoing "No Country Left Behind" campaign, and a number of recent activities have directly supported the achievement of these goals.

14. State's implementation of the TRIP strategy, including the specific and crucial points I've just mentioned, requires coordinated action between many government and industry entities. This can include passport issuing offices, aviation security authorities, civil registries, border control and law enforcement agencies, airlines, airport authorities, the travel document industry, and immigration authorities.

15. The mechanism and requirement for this coordination already exist in Annex 9, through national air transport facilitation programmes and their related committees. However, many States have yet to establish a comprehensive National Facilitation Programme, a National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, or Airport Facilitation Committees. Progress here would greatly support the TRIP strategy.

16. It is worthwhile to mention that in line with numerous activities aimed at enhancing local and regional aviation security and facilitation, assistance to States under the ICAO TRIP Strategy has been conducted in the Caribbean Region, with the direct support of the Government of Canada. The activities of this Caribbean project "Border Control Management in the Caribbean Region" include workshops and technical assistance missions to address capacity gaps. The second workshop on border control management will take place here, immediately following the regional Seminar.

17. This project is being implemented in partnership with the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and in collaboration with other international organizations. This project is commendable and, it represents an impressive example of joint efforts linking State needs, ICAO expertise, and financial support coordinated with the donor community and by the ICAO/ Canada Grant Agreement as the main provider.

18. As part of its outcomes we produced a new set of guidelines focused on effective border control management: the *ICAO TRIP Guide on Border Control Management* will be presented to you in Day 3.

19. This will certainly complement the inaugural edition of the new planning and implementation guide, the ICAO TRIP Strategy Compendium, which ICAO has just completed. It showcases the work of several international organizations and includes references to relevant guidance material. It reflects the abundance of international cooperation towards the implementation of the TRIP strategy is in abundance. This collaboration is making crucial contributions not only to the implementation of ICAO's provisions but also the global response to the United Nations Security Council resolutions I referred to earlier.

22. ICAO is also continuing to foster improved TRIP Strategy awareness worldwide, with this Seminar taking place now in Montego Bay, Jamaica, being one of them.

21. We enjoy excellent working relationships with many key international organizations in this field, including: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); INTERPOL; Organization of American States (OAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM); to name just a few. And we are also encouraging States to cooperate at the regional and sub-regional levels.

22. In short, agreement and collaboration among all stakeholders on travel facilitation programme action plans, including all elements of the TRIP Strategy, is very much encouraged.

23. Another example here is the significant and detailed work is also being carried out behind-the-scenes on the development of new specifications and guidance materials by hard-working experts from Member States and related industry organizations.

24. These materials will support the significant work that remains ahead, for States and ICAO, as we strive to further coordinate our efforts and rectify aviation security and facilitation deficiencies in a robust and affordable manner.

25. Ladies and gentlemen, there is significant work ahead for States and ICAO in the implementation of coordinated activities aimed at rectifying aviation security and facilitation deficiencies in a sustainable manner. However, with mutual agreement on pursue common goals, I am confident we will build an

impressive record of progress in strengthening the global travel document system, and thereby enhance the security and facilitation of international civil aviation.

26. I wish to also make you aware that ICAO will be hosting another landmark event at our headquarters, our Thirteenth **ICAO TRIP Symposium, scheduled for 23 to 25 October 2018.**

27. Importantly, this event is a world-class forum for the exchange of information on all aspects of traveller identification management, and the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy providing decision makers and technical experts with valuable insight on key current and emerging issues.

28. With reference to the programme, you may have noted that some sessions are distributed among the different phases of the air travel cycle. The programme's segmentation clearly shows that traveller identification commences at a very early stage, far from the border itself, and that the value of a Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) is measured by the trust and confidence placed in it by inspection agencies.

I wish you all a very informative and productive 2017 ICAO/TRIP Seminar - Thank you

BULLET POINTS ONLY

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

- WELCOMING
- THANK to HOST, SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR, ATTENDANCE, EXPERTS and VENDORS
- THE ICAO TRIP STRATEGY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
- NEED OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION and INTERNAL COORDINATION
- BORDER CONTROL MANAGEMENT
- PROGRAMME PRESENTATION
- ASSISTANCE TO STATES (NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND); CARIBBEAN PROJECT
- WORKSHOPS PRESENTATION
- + REGIONAL ISSUES