PRINCIPLES ON AIR CARGO AND MAIL SECURITY
PRESENTED FOR ENDORSEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION (ICAO) HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY (HLCAS)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) High-Level Conference on Aviation Security, held from 12 to 14 September 2012 in Montréal,

Recalling the 37th Assembly Declaration on Aviation Security that specifically called for the development and implementation of strengthened and harmonised measures and best practices for air cargo security, taking into account the need to protect the entire air cargo supply chain;

Noting the ongoing efforts of Contracting States, industry, and relevant stakeholders to implement and maintain national air cargo and mail security measures based on the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) set forth in Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation;

Recalling the events of 29 October 2010 when terrorists exploited vulnerabilities in the air cargo security system to introduce improvised explosive devices intended to destroy aircraft in flight;

Acknowledging the co-operative efforts of all Contracting States, the ICAO, World Customs Organization (WCO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the aviation, air cargo, and mail industries to respond to the threat;

Recognising the need to continue to respond individually, collectively, and expeditiously to further strengthen the security of the global air cargo and mail system against acts of unlawful interference while facilitating the growth of international trade and the movement of commerce,

A. **Endorses the following Principles on Air Cargo and Mail Security to guide a strengthened global approach to securing the air cargo and mail supply chain:**

1. A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE, AND RESILIENT AIR CARGO SECURITY SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL

   The threat is to the air cargo system as a whole and risk-based consideration must be given to strengthening security measures across all aspects of the system, including enhancing the ability to recover from a major disruption.

2. ROBUST SECURITY STANDARDS THAT ARE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED IMPROVE GLOBAL AIR CARGO AND MAIL SECURITY

   It is essential that ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) should be outcome-focused and should define a minimum or baseline security level that must be applied to all cargo and mail. Different security measures may be applied across the air cargo system on the basis of risk, provided that they are founded on a set of common baseline standards. High-risk cargo should be identified and appropriately treated. The factors to be considered in assigning high-risk status to cargo and the subsequent actions to mitigate the risk are being articulated in relevant ICAO definitions, SARPs, and guidance material.

3. A TOTAL SUPPLY CHAIN APPROACH TO AIR CARGO AND MAIL SECURITY SHOULD BE ADOPTED

Appropriate security controls are to be implemented at the point of origin. Cargo and mail should come from a secure supply chain or be screened and, in either case, protected throughout the entire journey, including at transfer and transit points. At points of transfer, Contracting States should satisfy themselves that security controls previously applied to cargo and mail meet ICAO Annex 17 SARPs. In doing so, they should avoid unnecessary duplication of security controls.

4. OVERSIGHT AND QUALITY CONTROL OF AIR CARGO SECURITY ARE ESSENTIAL TO A SOUND AND SECURE SUPPLY CHAIN

Contracting States should establish and strengthen oversight and quality control activities to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of security requirements throughout the supply chain in their respective territories. ICAO should produce guidance materials to assist States in the establishment and maintenance of a robust oversight and quality control programme.

5. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION ARE KEY TO SECURING THE GLOBAL AIR CARGO AND MAIL SUPPLY CHAIN

ICAO should co-operate closely with the WCO, UPU, and the air cargo industry, and Contracting States should engage in bilateral and multilateral co-operative efforts to co-ordinate actions to enhance and harmonise air cargo and mail security. This should include consistent, efficient, and effective implementation of ICAO SARPs and guidance material. The intention is to ensure that the global air cargo and mail supply chain is more secure against acts of unlawful interference while promoting the efficient and cost-effective movement of air cargo and mail.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ARE NECESSARY

Technical assistance and capacity development are critical to assist States to meet enhanced standards, where needed. Understanding that the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among Contracting States is useful in enhancing the overall level of air cargo and mail security, these efforts should be targeted and undertaken in a co-ordinated way; and

B. **Strongly urges ICAO to introduce new SARPs, based on the principles above, to enhance air cargo and mail security as expeditiously as possible.**