



## MRTD Symposium

**Concluding remarks by Mr. M. Elamiri, Director, Air Transport Bureau**

(Thursday, 7 September 2006)

Good afternoon ladies and Gentlemen,

It is difficult for me to speak after the excellent summary made by Joel Shaw, but I am very happy to have the opportunity to make few concluding remarks.

In a more congested and insecure world, our global challenge in general is to facilitate the flow of people through border controls in a secure manner, while at the same time giving due consideration to an individual's concerns about dignity and privacy. The answer lies of course in the biometric enhancement of MRTDs, particularly machine readable passports. The universal implementation of MRPs is needed as soon as possible before 2010 as required by the latest amendment of Annex 9.

In many cases, The countries that do not yet issue MRPs simply lack the human or financial resources to move the project forward. Since the entire aviation system and its security stand to benefit from universal implementation, ICAO is ready to provide assistance to States in the form of project planning, technical and policy guidance, education, arrangements for financing, and project management. A quality control regime is also being set up to provide States with objective evaluations of their prototype documents to assure compliance with ICAO specifications. But the assistance to be provided by ICAO will need contributions and commitment from Donor States and the Industry.

Success in any endeavour depends largely on sharing information and expertise. Over the last two days, we had high-level presentations and discussions on all aspects of MRTDs. We were immensely fortunate to have with us an outstanding team of world experts and I want to sincerely thank them for having taken the time to share their valuable knowledge and expertise with us. We benefited also from 25 exhibitors whose products and services presented brought to life the concepts which were reviewed in this hall.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to invite you all to attend tomorrow's interactive Workshop on e-Passeports and the ICAO Public Key Directory, and to thank again the moderators, speakers, participants, exhibitors and the sponsors of this event. We have to recognise also the excellent work done behind the scene by ICAO Staff and members of the TAG-MRTD to make this Symposium a success.

Next year, ICAO is planning to hold jointly with other regional Organizations three Regional Seminars on MRTDs. The Third Global Symposium on MRTDS is also planned for next year and will focus more on implementation and systems development.

Thank you all.