ICAO

**Opening Address by
the Council President
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,
to the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Seminar**

(St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 31 January – 2 February 2017)

*Honorable Charles Fernandez,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Immigration
of Antigua and Barbuda*

*Mr. Carlos Velasquez Monge,
Vice-President of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission,*

*Ms Alison Treppel, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee
against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS)*

*Dr. Manorma Soeknandan, Deputy Secretary General, Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)*

*Mr. Donald McPahil, Director General, Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation
Authority (ECCAA)*

Distinguished Government Representatives, Delegates and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you here today to the beautiful Antigua island, and to address this Seminar on the latest developments in the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy .

Let me first express ICAO's sincere thanks to our host for this event, the Ministry of Public utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation of Antigua and Barbuda, which has provided us with such a warm welcome and these excellent facilities to facilitate our work.

The ICAO TRIP strategy is designed to assist States in meeting international obligations with respect to a number of priorities, including enhancing the fight against terrorism, reducing cross-border crime, and combating various threats to international civil aviation.

It also specifically supports efforts relating to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 2178 and 2309, which were adopted in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

A primary objective of the ICAO TRIP Strategy is to strengthen the interconnected State capacities relating to the establishment, protection and management of citizen identity. This identity management foundation in turn leads to more dependably secure travel document production and border control facilitation systems.

With the global transition to machine-readable passports nearly complete, I would like to remind all of ICAO's Member States that 24 November 2015 was the deadline by which any remaining non-machine readable passports were to have been removed from global circulation.

Continued attempts to travel with these documents could lead to significant passenger and border control impediments, meaning that it is critical for governments to encourage their citizens to renew any remaining non-machine-readable passports in circulation without delay.

In the area of ePassport implementation, some 110 of ICAO's 191 Member States currently report that they are issuing them – with nearly 600 million ePassports in circulation worldwide. However further challenges persist, mainly due to the fact that some ePassports currently in circulation are not fully compliant with ICAO specifications.

Another ePassport implementation issue I would like to raise with you revolves around the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), and more specifically the situation whereby many States issuing ePassports are still not using the ICAO PKD to verify and authenticate their ePassports' chip.

I must emphasize that PKD membership is <u>essential</u> if States wish to capitalize on the full security and facilitation benefits that ePassports are meant to deliver.

Going forward, more intensified advocacy efforts are being implemented to underscore the role of the PKD as a fundamental contributor to effective border integrity.

ICAO, for its part, has recently put in place a new PKD operating agreement, which led to the reduction of registration fees for new PKD participants. The annual fee for existing participants has been also reduced.

I also wish to emphasize that ICAO is continuing with the establishment of a more systematic approach to assist States in the implementation of ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), including our Doc 9303 specifications and other provisions supporting the ICAO TRIP.

These efforts are consistent with our ongoing objectives under the ICAO *No Country Left Behind* initiative, and a number of recent activities have directly supported the achievement of these goals.

It is also important 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 now commenced here in the Caribbean Region – with the direct support of the Government of Canada.

This project is also being implemented in partnership with the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and with the collaboration of additional international and regional organizations.

Another development I would like to discuss concerns the first-ever ICAO Training Package (ITP) on the *Control of the Authenticity and Validity of Travel Documents at Airport Borders – Level 1*. It was finalized earlier last year and will further contribute to the implementation of both ICAO's provisions and the UN Security Council resolutions I referenced earlier.

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.

At our Assembly last year, security concerns featured very prominently in a number of endorsements by our Member States, most notably perhaps the agreement that ICAO should develop a new Global Aviation Security Plan

(GASeP) which would complement our highest-level strategic guidance for Global Aviation Safety and Air Navigation.

This document, expected to be approved by the ICAO Council by 2018, will provide guidance for priority setting at the international, regional and State levels, creating a framework for enhanced coordination locally and globally.

I am confident that by working together, and fostering greater coordination among the many agencies and stakeholders who are responsible for aviation security, we can enhance even further the security and facilitation of your borders and air transport's global network.

We hope to see you all at the next regional TRIP seminar, hosted by Jamaica in Montego Bay this November 2017.
In closing now let me please wish you all a very productive Seminar.

Thank you.