D/ATB Speech
Twelfth Symposium and Exhibition on the Traveller Identification Programme
15 November 2016
Montréal, Canada

Excellencies,

Distinguished representatives to the ICAO Council,

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. I am delighted to be here today at the opening of this very important Symposium. As Director of the Air Transport Bureau with responsibility of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, I wish to welcome you and provide some key updates on the development and implementation of this programme. Our theme for the symposium this year is *strengthening aviation security through improved traveller identification*.

2. The Traveller Identification Programme which falls under the ICAO Strategic Objective aiming at enhancing at the same time aviation security and facilitation, with the majority of the work of TRIP being conducted under the provisions of Annex 9 – *Facilitation* and also through the international specifications for machine readable travel documents (MRTDs) found in ICAO Doc 9303. At the same time, the ICAO TRIP strategy continues to support the fight against terrorism, cross-border crime and other threats against civil aviation, and is relevant to the Resolution 2178 of the UN Security Council, of September 2014.

3. The objective of the ICAO TRIP Strategy in strengthening identification management enables States to uniquely identify individual travellers. This results in the enhancement of the security and facilitation of international air passengers and crews and relies on work which focuses on the five elements of the TRIP Strategy, namely, evidence of identity, machine readable travel documents, document issuance and control, inspection systems and tools, and interoperable applications. All of these elements will be addressed in detail during this symposium.

4. The 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly, recently concluded in Montréal, endorsed the continued development and implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy, including travel documents, the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), and the provision of related assistance and training to States.

5. In the week before the 39th Assembly was convened, another historic landmark was achieved with the unanimous adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 2309 (2016). During this Session of the Security Council, the Secretary General of ICAO, Dr. Fang Liu, addressed the Council Members, calling for closer collaboration to ensure the security of global air services, including the prevention of terrorist attacks against civil aviation. Along with enhanced screening, security checks and facility security, the Council called for strengthened cooperation and information-sharing among States and a requirement that airlines provide advance passenger information (API) to national authorities in order to track the movement of individuals identified as being associated to terrorism

activities. Regional and international cooperation on border control, law-enforcement and criminal justice was also underlined.

6.   These recent developments help to shape and support the work of ICAO and Member States in responding to the continuing and serious threat to civil aviation, as witnessed again with the high-profile attacks that occurred in the last two years. The importance of traveller identification is emphasized and renewed impetus is given to the implementation of all aspects of the ICAO TRIP Strategy.

7.   Since we last gathered in October 2015, much work has been done by all the stakeholders involved with the TRIP Strategy. Allow me to share with you just a few of the highlights associated with that work:

a) The deadline for the transition to machine readable passports was reached on the 24th of November 2015. As of today, 141 out of 191 ICAO Member States are fully compliant with Standard 3.11 of Annex 9 and are only issuing machine readable passports. We will continue working closely with those States who have yet to achieve full compliance in this area.

b) In March of this year we held our first Technical Advisory Group on the Traveller Identification Programme – or TAG/TRIP as previously referred to– the TAG/MRTD – and covered in detail all of the work being done by our expert advisors to support the implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy. Some highlights in the list of planned activities for the next triennium include the development of a scheme to enable authorities to validate the compliance of MRTDs and eMRTDs with Doc 9303 specifications, the development of guidance on evidence of identity, and the creation of a roadmap to

guide States in their implementation of the TRIP strategy at the national level.

c) Membership of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) has now reached 54 participants and continues to grow. ICAO PKD is seen as an essential tool enabling the verification and authentication of ePassports during border controls. The last survey held in 2014 indicated that 636 million ePassports were in circulation with more than 80 per cent of them being issued by the PKD Participants. In order to update these figures, another survey is planned for next year. Intensified advocacy efforts are needed to underscore the ICAO PKD as an essential element of border integrity, including when used in conjunction with automated border control gates.

8. At the same time, we are also planning for the development of a new publication to promote the ICAO TRIP Strategy. This publication, entitled the ICAO TRIP Compendium, is intended as a planning and implementation guide for secure traveller identification management. The publication will showcase the work of several international Organizations and will include references to the guidance material produced by the TAG/TRIP to assist Member States to implement the various elements of the ICAO TRIP Strategy. It is targeted at government officials, document issuance authorities, civil registries, passport offices, immigration, customs and industry experts. The first edition is expected to be published in October 2017.

9. In line with the goals of the "No Country Left Behind" initiative, assistance to States under the ICAO TRIP Strategy has now been successfully concluded in the Sahel Region thanks to the generous funding provided by the Government of Canada. One of the main

legacies of the common Canada/ICAO Sahel project is the new global ICAO Training Package entitled 'Control of the Authenticity and Validity of Travel Documents at Airport Borders – Level 1'. This training is designed for front-line inspection officers from immigration and border control authorities and can be accessed via the ICAO Global Aviation Training office. A new project to strengthen border control management is being developed for the Caribbean region and will also be funded by the Government of Canada.

10. I would like to move on to the international cooperative effort that underpins the TRIP Strategy. ICAO works closely with many leading organizations that play a key role in this field. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that a ceremony will be held today during the morning coffee break for the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICAO and the International Organization for Migration; we are also working closely with INTERPOL to re-enforce our existing Memorandum of Cooperation.

11. In the meantime, we continue to encourage States to come together at the regional and sub-regional levels to agree on action plans to implement travel facilitation programmes, including all of the elements of the TRIP Strategy. Some examples include:

a) The Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa held in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2016; and

b) The Global Ministerial Aviation Summit which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in August 2016.

12. A Ministerial Conference on Border Security and Travel Documents for Member States of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States and of

the Economic Community of West African States is scheduled to be convened in Marrakech, Morocco, from 21 to 22 April 2017.

13. Important too for ICAO is the work conducted with other UN bodies. Building on the Security Council Resolutions which I mentioned earlier, ICAO is one of the 38 entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) with a common action plan to respond to the challenge of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) through the implementation of UN SCR 2178.

14. Key in all of this are the requirements relating to advance passenger information and passenger data exchange programmes. To this end, ICAO collaborates with other CTITF entities, including the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), to promote the international standards adopted by UN agencies for this purpose. In 2016, four regional workshops to assist States with the implementation of API systems were conducted in Austria, Jordan, Kazakhstan and Thailand.

15. I hope I have been able to provide you with a sense of the many and varied initiatives that are underway towards the implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy. Significant and detailed work is being carried out behind-the-scenes by the hard-working experts from Member States and industry organizations who support the development of related specifications and guidance materials. In this regard, we work closely with the International Organization for Standardization, continuing a collaboration that has existed for decades.

16. There is much work ahead for all stakeholders involved in *strengthening aviation security through improved traveller identification.* Success is dependant upon collaboration and coordination between States, their authorities, and industry. We will continue to rely on donor States, international organizations, key partners, and experts drawn from ICAO Member States.

17. Over the coming days, I encourage you all to take advantage of the unique opportunity this Symposium provides to meet with colleagues from across the globe and to share information and solutions to further all parts of the ICAO TRIP Strategy. By delivering on all of the elements of the strategy, we will collectively strengthen security and facilitation to the benefit of all of those who have a stake in the international civil aviation system. Please be assured that ICAO is fully committed to supporting all of these efforts.

18. I invite you to also mark your calendar for the upcoming ICAO TRIP Regional seminar, planned in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 31 January to 3 February 2017. The Seminar is open to all States and will address the five elements of the ICAO TRIP Strategy, highly relevant to the execution of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on combatting foreign terrorist fighters, with a specific focus on effective border control management while addressing the common challenges of the Small Islands Devloping States (SIDS). The need to increase their TRIP capacity building in the context of the ''No Country Left Behind'' initiative will also be discussed.

19. Thank you for joining us here in Montréal during this autumn season and I wish you all an enjoyable time this week and a productive and interesting Symposium.

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