



ICAO

**Closing Remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization
Dr. Fang Liu
to the ICAO/Interpol Passenger Data Exchange
Forum
Friday, 28 May 2021**

1. This event has been the very first of its kind between ICAO and Interpol, and one where we've taken excellent advantage of its virtual format.
2. On behalf of everyone at ICAO I want to thank you for adapting to our new circumstances, and for providing such excellent contributions towards the topics and priorities we engaged on.
3. During the first session we saw how ICAO and Interpol cooperation is being put into action today through the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, alongside other UN partners.
4. This joint venture represents an important step in improving State capacities to prevent, detect, and investigate terrorist offenses and other serious crimes through the processing of API and PNR data, and it is already assisting 40 states around the world.
5. It has only been possible to progress this initiative due to the generosity of its donors, and I would extend our shared tanks in this regard to the governments of The Netherlands, the European Union, the USA, Qatar, Australia, Japan, and India.
6. From ICAO and Interpol, to the all-UN approach reflected by the Counter Terrorism Travel Programme, to the presentation yesterday from our colleague from IATA, we've seen throughout this event how effective collaboration is so critical to public sector and industry passenger data exchange priorities.
7. We should maintain no illusions that COVID-19's impacts are preventing members of terrorist groups and transnational organized crime groups from attempting to travel across the globe to undertake criminal acts.
8. On 28 February this year, the new and revised Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, became applicable, establishing a global framework for the collection, use, processing, and protection of PNR data.

9. This is an important step in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2396, and with these new Standards Annex 9 now places a clearly-defined obligation on States to be able to collect and process API/PNR data.
10. We hope that this event's sessions on API and PNR data have given you greater insight into how the effective implementation of Passenger Data Exchange Systems and data analysis can improve your use of border control tools to tackle terrorism and serious crime, and that you're also better informed on the related types of support available to you.
11. I wish to thank our colleagues from the World Customs Organization, and US Customs and Border Protection, for the demonstration of the technical support they've made available to States still getting started on these capacities, as well as our colleagues from Interpol, Frontex, and the Interior Ministry of France for their interesting insights into how to process API and PNR data for diverse law enforcement objectives.
12. ICAO certainly hasn't underestimated the challenges that States face when implementing passenger data exchange programmes, and we hope that this event has helped governments to appreciate the wide ranging support available to them, whether from ICAO itself, our UN partners, other international organizations, and the many States who have already been through this journey.
13. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience out there for you to tap into.
14. In concluding now, please let me offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this first Passenger Data Exchange Forum a success, including our government and industry partners for their presentations, and everyone on the ICAO team from our subject matter experts to our interpreters and coordinators.
15. I wish you all continued health and security in these very difficult times for us all.
16. Thank you.