Distinguished guests,

Sponsors and exhibitors,

Speakers and presenters, and

Participants

Good morning

1. As Director of the Air Transport Bureau, I wish to welcome you to the thirteenth ICAO TRIP Symposium and Exhibition.

2. I have no doubt that this highly anticipated event will be very informative for us all as it will provide the linkage of each element of the ICAO TRIP strategy to each phase of a typical air travel journey.

3. New ideas and technologies will help to achieve this goal. The exhibitors located outside this hall will showcase their latest solutions on the facilitation processes and on minimizing risk in document fraud.

4. I encourage all of you to fully participate in all aspects of this event and to actively contribute in the discussion associated with each of the elements of the TRIP Strategy.

5. Two workshops have been organized during the Symposium, one immediately prior to the start and the other, at the conclusion of the event. The first workshop, took place yesterday on the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) and the second, on Advance Passenger Information (API), is planned for Thursday afternoon. These workshops, focused towards application and implementation, provide an opportunity for discussion and sharing of information. I wish to thank the speakers in the workshops who have agreed to share their initiatives and experiences.

6. Understanding the value of the ICAO PKD and becoming a member are the first steps, but the question that arises often is "how to operate and implement a national PKD and ePassport validation system". I hope that the information provided yesterday during the PKD workshop was useful in this respect.

7. Similar questions have arisen regarding effective implementation of API. Coordination is required in the development of a national legislation and in the establishment of a national API system in line with Annex 9

Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), taking into account the various needs of all involved stakeholders.

8. With reference to the Symposium programme, you may have noted that the various sessions, except for Sessions 1 and 2, are distributed among the different phases of the air travel cycle:

9. The phase "before departure" includes the first three elements of the TRIP: evidence of identity, machine readable travel documents, and document issuance and control.

10. The phase "departure and flight" is more focused on the interoperable applications, especially in the Passenger data exchange.

11. Finally, Inspections systems and tools are gathered in the phase called "arrival".

12. The programme's segmentation clearly shows that traveller identification commences at a very early stage, far from the border itself, and that the value of a Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) is measured by the trust and confidence placed in it by inspection agencies.

13. The physical composition of the document is one important aspect towards inspiring this confidence, while the criteria applied in determining entitlement are also very important considerations. There

needs to be a level of confidence whereby both the bearer and the document are deemed legitimate.

14. This chain of trust has many links that must all support the collective foundation for reliable border checks.

15. The Air Transport Committee, during its 212th Session on 28 September 2017, discussed the development of an ePassport Standard roadmap, and as the final removal from circulation of non-Machine readable Passports is expected to be achieved by 2022 for some States, the Air Transport Committee plans to then consider the possibility of an ePassport Standard, following ad-hoc recommendations from the Facilitation Panel.

16. In the meantime, the ICAO Secretariat, with the assistance of experts from the Technical Advisory Group on TRIP (TAG/TRIP), will continue assisting States with the issuance of ePassports to ensure the implementation of robust identity management, including civil registry systems.

17. In concluding, I wish you all an enjoyable time this week in Montréal and a productive and interesting Symposium. I hereby declare this thirteenth TRIP Symposium and Exhibition open.

— END —