

**Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Aviation Safety Symposium and subsequent
Security Meeting (Dakar, Senegal, 27–28 May 2014)**

Message from Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, CTED Executive Director

**AFCAC President Air Commodore Kwame Mamphey, ICAO Secretary General
Mr. Raymond Benjamin, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are all too well aware of the security challenges facing Africa and particularly in some Member States and sub-regions and that the increased activity of militant terrorist groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaida, threaten not only the Member State or sub-region concerned but the whole continent and in fact the entire world due to the nature of the global aviation network. African States are thus confronted with an acute transnational terrorist threat that requires concerted regional and coordinated responses. Furthermore, Member States in Africa have and will continue to experience significant increases in the growth of civil aviation operations. This growth helps support and encourages international commerce and tourism underlying the potential for increased economic and social development in Africa as a whole. In order to continue to encourage and nurture this potential, CTED along with ICAO fully recognize the imperative of further development of sustainable aviation security and facilitation systems in Africa and fully supports the initiatives that will be proposed today during this meeting.

Acutely conscious of these challenges, African States have made progress in implementing a variety of counter-terrorism measures, in compliance with resolution 1373 (2001) including strengthening their national aviation security and oversight systems. However, the results of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) audits compiled over more than 10 years, and CTED's own country assessments and visits on behalf of the Counter Terrorism Committee continue to demonstrate that significant deficiencies and challenges remain. In particular in the African region Member States' compliance with Annex 17 - *Security* Standards, the security-related provisions of Annex 9 - *Facilitation* and the effective implementation of the critical elements of States' national aviation security oversight systems need to be enhanced without further delay.

CTED is mandated to work with a variety of international, regional and subregional organisations in its efforts to address the challenges faced by States in effectively implementing counter-terrorism measures. It continues to work closely with ICAO, the lead agency responsible for the development of International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) relating to aviation security and facilitation as detailed in the relevant Annexes to the Chicago Convention. CTED also cooperates closely with many of the other organizations and Donor States.

CTED fully supports the importance attached by ICAO for States to develop and even more importantly to implement comprehensive corrective action plans to address the findings and recommendations identified during ICAO USAP audits of Member States. In addition, CTED stands ready to enhance the existing cooperation between itself and ICAO to facilitate and coordinate assistance and technical expertise for capacity building efforts for those Member States in need. There are many examples of this cooperation, but one of the most recent was the participation just last month in April of the ICAO Secretary General Mr. Raymond Benjamin and the Secretary General of INTERPOL to an open-briefing to the Counter Terrorism Committee and broader representation of the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations in New York to address the issue of Traveller Identification Management Systems and the Security of Travel Documents. In this regard CTED and ICAO have worked closely together to promote and enable Member States' efforts to introduce Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) and implement ICAO's Traveller Identification Programme Strategy, otherwise known as the ICAO TRIP Strategy, with which you will all be familiar. This is a clear example of where the objectives of both the Counter Terrorism Committee and ICAO are being achieved through close cooperation and coordinated efforts to enable Member States to fulfil their obligations as defined under United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the Chicago Convention and its relevant Annexes to implement measures to counter terrorism.

CTED looks forward to continuing its close partnership with ICAO in identifying those areas where improvement is required in Member States' aviation security and oversight systems and to facilitate and coordinate the efficient delivery of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives for those Member States most in need.

In closing, please allow me to reiterate once more CTED's full support for the proposal to be put to you today in this security meeting jointly organised by AFCAC and ICAO for the adoption of a comprehensive plan for enhancing aviation security and facilitation in Africa and of CTED's commitment to assist in the plan's implementation

I take this opportunity to wish you all a highly successful meeting and look forward to hearing the conclusions reached today in order that together we can support the existing and future growth of civil aviation in Africa in a highly secure and efficient environment.