



**Closing Remarks by the
by the Deputy Director, Aviation Security, Cybersecurity and Facilitation of ICAO
Mrs. Sonia Hifdi
to the
21st TRIP Symposium and Exhibition**

Montréal, Quebec, Canada, 24 September 2026

Excellencies,
Representatives to the ICAO Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the close of the Twenty-First ICAO TRIP Symposium, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for your active participation, thoughtful contributions, and commitment throughout these three days.

This Symposium has clearly demonstrated that trusted traveller identity is no longer simply an aspiration—it is becoming an operational reality.

Our discussions have shown that the foundations already exist. ICAO Standards, specifications and global trust frameworks – personified by Annex 9, Doc 9303 and the Public Key Directory – provide the common framework that enables States to implement secure, interoperable and scalable traveller identification systems. The challenge before us is no longer one of innovation alone, but of implementation.

Over the past three days, we have examined every stage of the traveller identity lifecycle—from establishing trusted identities and securely issuing travel documents, to deploying Digital Travel Credentials, strengthening trust infrastructures, modernizing inspection systems, and enabling interoperable applications that support seamless border processes.

One message has resonated throughout the Symposium: trust must be built into every stage of the traveller journey.

We have heard how States are modernizing document issuance through stronger identity verification, biometric enrolment and secure lifecycle management. We have seen how electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents, the ICAO Public Key Directory and the ICAO Digital Travel Credential are enabling more efficient and reliable verification of traveller identities while preserving the global interoperability that only ICAO can provide.

We have also explored how trusted traveller identity supports a more seamless travel experience. By combining secure travel credentials, biometrics, automated inspection systems and trusted data exchange, States can facilitate legitimate travel while strengthening border security. These capabilities are no longer theoretical—they are being implemented today and will continue to expand as more States adopt ICAO Standards.

At the same time, our discussions have reminded us that implementation must remain forward-looking. The emergence of quantum computing requires us to prepare now for the transition to quantum-safe cryptography, ensuring that the trust underpinning today's travel documents and digital credentials remains secure for decades to come. Building cryptographic resilience into future ICAO specifications will be essential to maintaining confidence in the global traveller identification ecosystem.

Throughout this Symposium, another important message has emerged.

No single State, organization or stakeholder can achieve trusted traveller identity alone.

Global interoperability depends upon international cooperation. It requires governments, border authorities, issuing authorities, international organizations, industry partners and standards bodies to work together under a common framework. ICAO will continue to provide that framework, bringing together expertise, facilitating consensus and developing

the Standards that enable trusted travel worldwide.

The discussions held during this Symposium do not mark the end of our work—they define our priorities for the years ahead.

Our responsibility now is to translate these exchanges into concrete action: to implement the ICAO TRIP Strategy, strengthen national capabilities, expand interoperability, and ensure that every State can participate in the future of trusted travel.

As you leave Montréal, I encourage you to focus on three priorities. First, advance implementation within your organizations and States by translating plans and pilot projects into operational, interoperable systems. Second, continue strengthening international cooperation through active engagement with ICAO and with partners across the traveller identity ecosystem. Third, prepare your systems and teams for future security challenges, including the transition to quantum-safe cryptography

In doing so, we will continue to advance a shared vision—one where traveller identity is trusted, travel is seamless, borders are secure, and no State is left behind.

On behalf of ICAO, I thank our distinguished keynote speakers, moderators, panellists, exhibitors, sponsors and every participant whose expertise and collaboration have made this Symposium such a success.

I wish you all safe travels home, and I look forward to continuing our work together as we put trust into practice and move towards trusted travel identity for all.

Thank you.

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