

TWENTY-FIRST SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION ON THE ICAO TRAVELLER IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME (TRIP)

(Montréal, Canada, 22 to 24 September 2026)

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

States and the wider stakeholder community have invested significantly in seamless and contactless passenger processing for years. The importance of these efforts has grown, particularly in responding to increased traveller volumes post pandemic. To address security risks, border control authorities, the air industry and travel document issuing agencies seek more efficient and secure ways to identify and process travellers. Integrating technology in each TRIP Strategy element enhances the passenger experience.

Overall picture: The Symposium will focus on the practical implementation and global interoperability of traveller identification solutions, helping States transition from pilot projects to operational, scalable, and sustainable systems. Discussions will highlight how existing ICAO Standards, specifications, and trust frameworks are being applied to enable secure, seamless, and inclusive travel, while also addressing the emerging post-quantum challenge and the need to adopt quantum-safe cryptography to safeguard long-term trust and security. Key topics include the operational use of eMRTDs, ICAO Digital Travel Credentials (DTC), and interoperable solutions such as ICAO Datastructure- based (IDB) 2D barcodes, including applications for Digital Travel Authorizations (DTA). The Symposium will emphasize readiness, transition, and real-world implementation, alongside early planning for post-quantum cryptographic frameworks. Overall, it will reinforce ICAO's role as the global anchor for trusted traveller identification, focusing on governance, interoperability, cryptographic resilience, and State responsibility in support of effective border management. Subsequent sessions will address the five TRIP elements.

- a) **Evidence of identity.** Sessions will examine practical approaches to establishing and verifying identity to a high degree of confidence, balancing fraud mitigation with efficient service delivery. Discussions will focus on robust EOI frameworks covering both foundational (legal) and physical identity, the use of automation and biometrics, and the evolving role of digital identity ecosystems, civil registries, and mobile technologies;
- b) **Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs).** This track will address implementation of MRTDs, eMRTDs and the DTC as interoperable digital companions or substitutes to physical documents. Standardization enables efficient and reliable traveller control, and ongoing efforts will also address the post-quantum challenge, ensuring that cryptographic mechanisms remain resilient as technology evolves;
- c) **Document issuance and control.** Discussions will cover modernization of issuance processes, including digital workflows, secure credential delivery, lifecycle management, and backend systems that ensure integrity and accountability. Moving toward centralized, modernized systems for secure travel document issuance will enhance service delivery while maintaining strong security, preventing theft, tampering, or loss;
- d) **Inspection systems and tools.** Sessions will explore inspection systems and tools for secure verification of MRTDs and eMRTDs, including the use of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD). Topics will include Passive Authentication, Automated Border Control (ABC), self-service solutions, and risk-based approaches that reduce reliance on physical document inspection while preserving trust and security; and
- e) **Interoperable applications.** This stream will focus on interoperable applications that enable automation across the traveller journey, combining ePassport and DTC data, biometrics, and border control systems. Special attention will be given to the operational use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data to support facilitation, security, and informed decision-making.