



**Opening Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the Data Protection & International Carriage by Air Seminar**

*(Montréal, Canada, 27 September 2023)*

As President of the ICAO Council, I wish to welcome you all, on behalf of ICAO and our member States, to this Seminar on Data Protection and International Carriage by Air.

I also wish to convey ICAO's gratitude to IATA for graciously hosting this event, which I am certain will contribute to advancing this important topic.

Taken together, Aviation Security and Facilitation are crucially important and reciprocal priorities in enhancing the movement of passengers and cargo by air. They also facilitate global connectivity, which in turn significantly contributes to sustainable development and growth of societies around the world and ultimately to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The world economy is driven by data, and saving and securely storing data allows stakeholders to learn and potentially make wiser, better founded and quicker decisions in the future.

Because this fact is recognized and implemented in border control, we must acknowledge that the protection of personally identifiable information, particularly when sharing this data, is tantamount to our joint success in promoting air transport.

In terms of passenger data transfer, as part of the United Nations system, ICAO is cognizant of and committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles, as well as the Secretary-General Data Strategy.

ICAO's efforts and prioritization have resulted in consecutive amendments to the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) contained in Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention, which focuses on facilitating passenger travel, amongst other things. I am sure many of you here are already familiar with its provisions.

You may be less aware however of ICAO's work to support United Nations Security Council resolutions in relation to our common fight against terrorism and more specifically the movement of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). This commitment, and the outcomes of our efforts, are reflected in our amendments to Annex 9.

In particular, Security Council resolution 2396 not only obliged United Nations Member States to develop the capability to collect, process and analyze Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, but it also urged ICAO to work with its Member States to establish a standard for the collection, use, processing and protection of PNR data.

In response to this, ICAO established a PNR Task Force to review the existing SARPs contained in Annex 9, and to develop proposals for Standards for PNR in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2396.

The new Standards developed by the Task Force were adopted by the ICAO Council as Amendment 28 to Annex 9 in 2020, and represent the global regulatory framework for the collection of PNR data by aircraft operators, the transfer of PNR data to States and, critically, how States use and protect PNR data, including through appropriate privacy protections.

It is against this backdrop that your discussions here will be taking place.

As specialists, I encourage all of you to participate actively in these discussions, to share your perspectives, and to contribute to the outcomes of this seminar.

These will be key to informing not only our assistance to States in implementing Annex 9 as it currently stands, but also in nourishing their reflection on future amendments.

With that, I wish you all fruitful deliberations and a productive Seminar. Thank you.