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**Closing Remarks by Mr. Melvin Cintron,  
ICAO Regional Director, NACC Office, Mexico**

**to the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP)  
Seminar  
(St. John`s, Antigua and Barbuda,  
31 January – 2 February 2017)**

Mr. Edson Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities,  
Civil Aviation and Transportation, Antigua and Barbuda

Distinguished Delegates and Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Seminar and Exhibition held this week in Saint John`s, Antigua and Barbuda has come to an end, thanks to our host, the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation, Antigua and Barbuda; and his local team, and to all those who worked hard before and during the Seminar.
2. It was a good opportunity to discuss many interesting subjects such as identification management, border control and its facilitation, and combat trends in fraudulent documents, etc, which are all part of the ICAO's TRIP strategy. I am very happy that 163 participants from 37 States, twelve international organizations, and four sponsors attended the Seminar; and there was quite a good interaction in the Seminar with questions and answers during the panel sessions.
3. With the global transition to machine-readable passports now almost complete, States are reminded of the past deadline of 24 November 2015, by which all non-machine readable passports should have been removed from circulation globally.
4. In the area of ePassport implementation, a large number of Member States have implemented ePassports, like Antigua that is in the process of issuing them. However, a significant number of States are not yet using the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) to verify and authenticate these ePassports, and hence maximizing the expected benefits of an ePassport. Therefore, States are strongly encouraged to join the ICAO PKD, if not yet done.



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5. ICAO efforts to establish a more systematic approach to assist States in the implementation of Annex 9 SARPs, including provisions relating to Doc 9303 specifications and other policies supporting the ICAO TRIP strategy, are consistent with the ongoing ICAO “No Country Left Behind” initiative. Therefore, ICAO will continue to foster improved TRIP Strategy awareness worldwide, including through this type of seminars.
6. We all recognized that there is still a significant work ahead for our States and ICAO in the implementation of coordinated activities aimed at rectifying aviation security and facilitation deficiencies in a sustainable manner.
7. This seminar has also been the opportunity to highlight how air transport facilitation is enhancing air transport connectivity and hence its fundamental role in air transport as an important driver of greater socio-economic prosperity while supporting our common efforts and initiatives towards a secure global air transport system for the benefits of all travellers.
8. As you may know the 13th TRIP Symposium will be held in October 2017 at ICAO HQ Montreal, and a similar event like the one held this week will be held in Jamaica the last week of November 2017, I encourage you to plan your participation in these two important events.
9. Before finalizing, I ask you to do from this Seminar not another meeting without results. I encourage you that after your participation on this TRIP Seminar, return to your States and take advantage of the outcomes, and prepare your deliverables for enhancing your national system. Furthermore, I encourage you to be a leader in what you do, and do an impact of change in your own system.
10. Finally, let me express my gratitude and special thanks to:

The Antigua and Barbuda Government, and in particular the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation, - our host – My friend Mr. Edson Joseph for the outstanding hospitality and excellent support to the ICAO programmes.

I would like also to thank, the moderators, speakers, and exhibitors; and a special appreciation for Mr. Peter Abraham and his team for his continuous support to ICAO activities.

Special thanks to the ICAO Facilitation Team from Headquarters, led by Dr. Narjess Abdennabi, and the Regional Officers for aviation security and facilitation.



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For sure, I don't want to forget the interpreters, for their outstanding job. Thanks a lot for your patience and for your professionalism.

Finally, I thank your States and you all for your attendance and your active participation in this Seminar, and I wish you a safe trip back to your respective countries, and hope to see you soon. Have a good afternoon.

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