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**Closing Remarks by Mr. Mohamed Smaoui,
ICAO Deputy Regional Director, MID Office
(on behalf of the Regional Director)**

**to the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO
TRIP) Seminar
(Kish Island, 9 - 11 May
2016)**

Mr Majid Aghababaie, Director General of Border Control, Ministry of Interior

Mr Morteza Dehgan, Civil Aviation Organization, Iran

Mr Morteza Sairafi, Representative of Minister of Foreign Affairs at Kish Island

Mr Ahmad Ebrahimi, IT Police

Distinguished Delegates and Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Seminar held this week in Kish Island has come to an end, thanks to our host, the CAO and the Ministry of Interior of Iran; 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 management of citizen identity, secure systems of travel document production and border control facilitation, etc, which are all part of the ICAO's TRIP strategy. I am very happy that around 300 participants from 17 States and industry 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, including Iran. 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.
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



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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 travelers.
8. Let me at the end express my gratitude and special thanks to:

The Iranian Government, and in particular the Ministry of Interior and the CAO of Iran - our host - for the outstanding hospitality and excellent support to the ICAO programmes.

I would like also to thank, the moderators, speakers, and exhibitors.

Special thanks to the ICAO Facilitation Team, led by Dr. Narjess Abdennabi.

For sure, I don't have to forget the interpreters, which had quite a difficult task with many of the speakers talking quite fast, especially in Persian! Thanks a lot for your patience and for your professionalism.

Finally, I thank 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. Probably some of you are planning to go to Montreal to attend the 39th session of the ICAO General Assembly end of September 2016 and/or the 12th TRIP symposium, from 15 to 17 November 2016.

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