

**Remarks by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Ali Abedzadeh**

**Your excellency, the Minister of Interior,
Distinguished and honorable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I welcome you all to *ICAO TRIP Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) and Traveller Identification Management* being held here at Kish Island Free Zone for the next three days.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, this Seminar has been organized by the ICAO, with the support of the Civil Aviation Organization, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and many others to address current and emerging ICAO MRTD specifications, identification management practices and related border security issues.

I actually inferred that the seminar programme focuses on the ICAO's role and mandate related to the security and facilitation programme entailed in Annexes 9 and 17, ICAO's Major Strategic Objectives, Document Security and Integrity, Interoperable Applications, ICAO SARPs and Specifications, Document Issuance and Control and finally it ends with Capacity Building and Assistance.

Among other themes I also noticed some topics of interest relating to the advantages and challenges of using biometric data in travel documents. There are also points of importance with regard to implementing electronic passports, MRTDs procurement issues, reading travel documents at the borders and the role of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) in achieving robust global security.

As per the developed strategies, Contracting States are to enhance aviation security by standardizing formats for travel documents and to adopt electronic transmission of passenger data while ensuring the protection of passengers' privacy and civil liberties. States were also encouraged to participate in the electronic passport validation service known as the ICAO PKD.

Ladies and gentlemen, as an ICAO Member State, the Islamic Republic of Iran has somehow the strategic objectives similar to that of ICAO and most other States and is perfectly willing to fully implement the ICAO SARPs even far beyond its own national rules and regulations and assume greater roles in security and facilitation. To do so, Civil Aviation Organization does its best to enjoy the knowledge, experience and expertise of the ICAO, member States, stakeholders and industries.

To realize one of the key strategic objectives of the ICAO, namely security as well as our own set strategies, which is actually interwoven with facilitation and connectivity, which, the latter one, recently brought into focus, CAO has strongly supported the holding of this Seminar and

will do so for other issues of paramount importance in the future. The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to play decisive roles in order to be the strongest link of the security chain.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing enormous assistance and support in organizing this important Regional event and I do wish you fruitful deliberations.

Nevertheless, I should say that your presence here would bring us an invaluable asset, which would lead to a huge change in the above-mentioned areas.

Have a good day and good luck with your Seminar,