

**Opening Statement of Mr. Weixiong Chen, CTED Deputy Director, at the
Ninth Symposium and Exhibition on ICAO Machine Readable Travel
Documents (MRTDs), Biometrics and Security Standards**

Montreal, 22 October 2013

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to represent the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in particular its Executive Chief Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, at this important Symposium on an important issue.

CTED was established to assist States in implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We have a clear mandate to work on counter-terrorism issues. One of the crucial elements in those resolutions is border control.

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) obligates all Member States to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups through effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures to prevent counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents.

Meanwhile, resolution 1624 (2005) calls upon all States to “cooperate, *inter alia*, to strengthen the security of their international borders, including by combating fraudulent travel documents and, to the extent available, by enhancing terrorist screening and passenger security procedures with a view to preventing those guilty of [incitement to commit a terrorist act] from entering their territory”.

The Security Council acts on behalf of the entire membership of the United Nations. In this regard, we believe that effective border control is the first line of defence against the movement of terrorists across borders and should also be part of any comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategy.

Dear Colleagues,

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Border control is easy said than done and remains one of the biggest challenges faced by States in implementing resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) in effectively managing borders to prevent the movement of terrorists. Lack of secure and robust identification management is a major vulnerability, which has been exploited by terrorists and other fugitives of criminality.

In this regard, ICAO has established international standards and specifications for machine-readable travel documents to ensure their security against counterfeiting and forgery.

CTED, a monitor of compliance of States' performance of relevant Security Council resolutions, fully supports the efforts undertaken by ICAO to promote States' issuance of ICAO-compliant machine-readable travel documents (MRTDs). We are also fully aware of the efforts of ICAO to take into account the balance between the prevention of terrorism and ensuring the steady flow of passengers and cargo.

CTED shares ICAO's assessment that a holistic, coherent and coordinated approach to the identification-management process leading up to the issuance of travel documents is a crucial aspect of efforts to ensure the legitimacy of secure travel documents.

CTED also regards the ICAO TRIP Strategy as the best approach to helping States meet their international obligations under resolution 1373 (2001) and fully supports the Strategy's aims to develop a holistic and systematic model for traveller identification management and to ensure that all States have the capacity to uniquely identify individuals.

Dear Colleagues,

CTED, a facilitator of technical assistance for States' capacity-building, works closely with ICAO in assisting States in their fulfilment of obligations of the relevant Security Council resolutions. CTED and ICAO work together in some of the country assessment visits, we work together in identifying, facilitating and delivering technical assistance, we work

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

together in promoting States' ratification of international legal instruments on aviation security, and we work together in developing the Counter-Terrorism Committee assessment tool and promoting good practices around the world. Such partnership will surely be continued and further intensified in the years to come.

Dear Colleagues,

Recent terrorist events, from Boston to Nairobi, from Southeast Asia to the Sahel region, have taught us that terrorism knows no boundary. Terrorist cells, their organizations and affiliates still roam around. The world is far from safety and security.

While we condemn in our strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed, there are measures and practices that we could immediately turn to and resort to, in order to prevent and to protect.

Terrorists might be smart, but we are smarter. When we have a robust identification management system developed, and when we have an effective passport-issuance process implemented, there would be no place that terrorists and other fugitives could hide or run away from us.

Let us join hands and work together towards achieving that goal.

With that, I wish you a successful symposium and look forward very much to hearing about your progress and challenges, ideas and proposals.

Thank you.