



ICAO

UNITING AVIATION

News Release

[www.icao.int](http://www.icao.int)

## **BAHRAIN CONFERENCE HELPS ADVANCE ICAO, WCO PRIORITIES ON AIR CARGO SECURITY AND FACILITATION**

**MONTRÉAL, 17 April 2014** – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) completed a joint conference on air cargo security and facilitation in Manama, Bahrain today, reinforcing their common message that a secure and efficient air cargo supply chain is essential for international trade and world economic development.

Hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the joint Conference brought together over 300 participants from 42 States and 50 international, regional and industry organizations.

“ICAO has been very encouraged by recent joint efforts to make civil aviation more secure, especially in the air cargo and related supply chain areas with our colleagues from the WCO,” commented ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin. “We are also pleased to see the complementary focus being placed by all concerned on improving the facilitation of air cargo, especially in light of the fact that world airlines carry close to 50 million tonnes of freight per year, or approximately one-third of all international trade by value.”

ICAO and the WCO took advantage of the Bahrain gathering to reinforce their priorities relating to the implementation of a global secure supply chain, taking into account the diversity of goods transported by air, the vast number of entities involved in the supply chain, and the practical realities of trying to streamline transnational operations in the face of multiple regulatory environments.

The Conference discussed a number of models for cooperation between civil aviation and customs authorities, and called on States to intensify regional and national cooperation between authorities. Solutions agreed to include the coordinated implementation of risk-based and outcomes-focused international air cargo and mail security measures, adaptable to local circumstances.

The Conference also supported the streamlining of global supply chain documentation and processes to benefit both security and facilitation objectives. It welcomed some promising ‘e-freight’ and ‘single-window’ initiatives in this regard, and considered that advance cargo information, by contributing to risk assessments for cargo and mail, could assist in applying timely and appropriate security controls earlier in the supply chain.

In considering the interconnected nature of the air cargo supply chain, the Conference recommended undertaking feasibility studies, impact assessments and operational pilot projects to evaluate innovative processes. ICAO and the WCO further agreed that their cooperation should be expanded beyond efforts to enhance aviation security and facilitation, mainly so that they could advance separate air cargo and mail objectives in the areas of dangerous goods, economic development and environmental protection.

**Resources for editors:**

ICAO-WCO "Moving Air Cargo Globally" free publication:

[http://www.icao.int/Security/aircargo/Documents/ICAO-WCO\\_Moving-Air-Cargo\\_2013.EN.pdf](http://www.icao.int/Security/aircargo/Documents/ICAO-WCO_Moving-Air-Cargo_2013.EN.pdf)

The ICAO Air Cargo website: <http://www.icao.int/Security/aircargo/Pages/default.aspx>

Conference Outcomes: <http://www.icao.int/Meetings/jointconferencebahrain/Documents/Joint%20Communique%20Final%20EN.pdf>

---

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

---

**Contact:**

Anthony Philbin  
Chief, Communications  
[aphilbin@icao.int](mailto:aphilbin@icao.int)  
+1 (514) 954-8220  
+1 (438) 402-8886 (mobile)

Sue-Ann Rapattoni  
Communications Associate  
[srapattoni@icao.int](mailto:srapattoni@icao.int)  
+1 (514) 954-8221  
+1 (514) 212-1051 (mobile)