



**Closing Remarks by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
to the Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on  
*Terrorist Threats to Civil Aviation*  
United Nations Headquarters**

*(New York, 7 July 2017)*

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Security Council Resolution 2309 (2016) empowers and requires all of us to protect the aviation network against the threat of terrorism. Today's discussions and the preceding Technical Sessions have shown us that both the counter-terrorism communities and the international aviation security communities take this responsibility most seriously, and have shown the willingness to cooperate and work together.
2. Work is underway at multiple levels to address the challenges discussed in all sessions. The previous speakers indicated during this session that an ICAO initiative, the Global Aviation Security Plan, or GASeP, will serve as the framework for progressive aviation security enhancement. It will provide the foundation for our goals and objectives, with concrete timelines and outcome-based metrics. This ambitious plan's success depends on the support, involvement, and engagement of States, industry, and international organizations.
3. ICAO's sustained emphasis on analyzing current and emerging threats and risks is demonstrated by our commitment to keeping the Global Risk Context Statement up to date. This product serves as the baseline for States' self-evaluation and development of their own security risk assessments, and enables updates to the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, revision of the Universal Security Audit Programme Protocol Questions, and improvements to related guidance material of ICAO.

4. The ICAO GASeP, the Global Risk Context Statement, and various supporting working groups, task forces and security programmes and projects are all essential elements in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2309 (2016). These technical activities are further dependent on endorsement from the most senior levels of each institution.
5. One element of Resolution 2309, the implementation of an Advance Passenger Information (API) system, is also part of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme, also known as the 'ICAO TRIP' strategy.
6. Much more progress remains to be achieved on the crucial implementation of an Advance Passenger Information (API) system which becomes a Standard of the ICAO Annex 9 – Facilitation to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). When approving this new Standard, the ICAO Council has taken into account an impact assessment on passenger data exchange systems and endorsed an implementation task list vis-à-vis the new API Standard.
7. For a number of years, ICAO, UN CTED and the World Customs Organization (WCO) have promoted the implementation of API. ICAO will continue to underscore the role of API as a fundamental contributor to effective border integrity.
8. It is my firm belief that it is important that the highest levels of States' governments take action. Resources must be made available, cooperation must be increased, initiatives must be endorsed, and timelines must be met. Without this support, we will not be able to achieve the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 2309 (2016).
9. Consistent with our ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative, we should provide assistance and capacity building to States so they may optimize international air connectivity and realize the many socio-economic benefits that result from compliance with Standards.
10. As we have discussed over the past two days, foreign terrorist fighter movements, landside attacks, threats posed by insiders and airport staff, and use of increasingly sophisticated improvised explosive devices are all significant concerns. Our expanding reliance on information technology in all areas of aviation – from navigation to communications to security – exposes us to cyber threats.

We must ensure that those who can counter those threats are well prepared to take the appropriate action to deter, detect, and prevent such attacks. We should enhance international cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders through ICAO platform and in partnership with CTC, CTED and other UN Counter-Terrorism entities to address terrorist threats to civil aviation.

11. Thank you, ICAO Council Members, representatives of AVSEC Panel, industry, UN and other international organizations for your participation and contribution throughout these sessions. ICAO looks forward to partnering continuously with CTC and Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) in implementation and meeting the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 2309 (2016).

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