

IOM Statement

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

It is a privilege and honor for the International Air Transport Association to be accredited for official observer status at International Organization for Migration.

There are many common links between IATA and the IOM, but perhaps the most important one begins at the foundations of both organizations. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement. IATA is in the business of freedom; of transporting people and goods around the world, in order to facilitate social and economic development through exchanges of ideas, realizing educational opportunities, creating enhanced cultural understanding and building new, productive relationships.

We are a trade association of some 265 airlines, accounting for over 80% of scheduled air traffic, based here in Geneva and also in Montreal, alongside with International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN's aviation body. We were very pleased to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM in April 2016. The MoU outlined a number of areas for mutual cooperation, which observer status will allow us to work towards. Examples of these areas include:

- Facilitating migration and protecting borders by integrating IATA's advance passenger information standards into IOM's border management system
- Strengthening the management of air transport's response to pandemics, under the auspices of CAPSCA (the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation).
- Increasing mobility and greater air connectivity in Africa by assisting the African Union in implementing their vision of a single air transport market for the continent

IATA looks forward to deepening its partnership with IOM on these and other areas. We thank you for your trust and confidence, and look forward to working closer together to achieve our mutual aims.