

## **IATA and UNCTAD e-commerce accord**

### **World Cargo Symposium, Istanbul, 12 - 14 October 2021**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced from Geneva on 14 August that they would extend their partnership to facilitate global trade. The two organizations will leverage their leadership in their respective fields to boost e-commerce in developing countries through improved exchanges of trade data

It is understood that the extended partnership will enrich their history of working together. This includes the successful integration of air cargo messaging standards (Cargo-XML) into UNCTAD's automated customs management system, ASYCUDAWorld.

For the 100 countries choosing to deploy the latest version of ASYCUDAWorld, this enables more efficient processing of air cargo shipments.

In the words of Shamika N Sirimanne UNCTAD's Technology and Logistics Director: *'Through this extended partnership, we look forward to leveraging the leadership of UNCTAD and IATA in their respective fields to boost e-commerce in developing countries through improved exchanges of trade data.'*

The next stage of the collaboration will focus on enabling ASYCUDAWorld to manage e-commerce shipments more efficiently. It will include adding a risk assessment for mail shipments and facilitating access to the IATA enhanced partner identification and connectivity (EPIC) platform (for more information see here: <https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2021-03-24-01/> ).

This will enable customs authorities to share advance cargo/mail information requirements across the digitized supply chain (airlines, freight forwarders, ground handlers and third-party messaging service providers).

Collaboration will also include the potential exchange of additional operational electronic information such as air cargo rules, flight schedules and others that can assist customs officials in their risk assessments.

Nick Careen, IATA's Senior Vice President for Operations, Safety and Security *'UNCTAD and IATA are working together to support the economic opportunities of e-commerce by modernizing the data exchange needed for customs clearance,'* said.

*‘Global standards enable accurate information and effective risk-assessments. This in turn promotes stronger compliance and will contribute to a safe supply chain, which should give the authorities the confidence to modernize processes,’*

### **About IATA: Serving the airline industry**

IATA represents some 290 airlines comprising 82% of global air traffic. For over 70 years IATA has developed global commercial standards upon which the air transport industry is built. Its aim is to assist airlines by simplifying processes and increasing passenger convenience while reducing costs and improving efficiency.

IATA helps airlines to operate safely, securely, efficiently, and economically under clearly defined rules. Professional support is provided to all industry stakeholders with a wide range of products and expert services.

### **World Cargo Symposium, Istanbul, 12 - 14 October 2021**

The World Cargo Symposium (WCS) is the largest and most prestigious annual event of its kind and the only one to bring together key stakeholders from the entire air cargo supply chain. This year it will be held at the Hilton Bomonti, Istanbul.

WCS 2021 is the 14<sup>th</sup> event in a series and will feature plenary sessions, specialised tracks, workshops and executive summits, tackling aspects of technology and innovation, security and Customs, cargo operations and sustainability.

This event is expected to be attended by over 1,000 representatives in the air cargo business with more than 40 exhibitors; World Cargo Symposium, is to be hosted by Turkish Cargo.

For more details see here: [www.iata.org/en/events/wcs/](http://www.iata.org/en/events/wcs/)