Guiding Principles

Safety. The attainment of a safe system is the highest priority in air traffic management, and a comprehensive process for safety management is implemented that enables the ATM community to achieve efficient and effective outcomes.

Humans. Humans will play an essential and, where necessary, central role in the global ATM system. Humans are responsible for managing the system, monitoring its performance and intervening, when necessary, to ensure the desired system outcome. Due consideration to human factors must be given in all aspects of the system.

Technology. The ATM operational concept addresses the functions needed for ATM without reference to any specific technology and is open to new technology. Surveillance, navigation and communications systems, and advanced information management technology are used to functionally combine the ground-based and airborne system elements into a fully integrated, interoperable and robust ATM system. This allows flexibility across regions, homogeneous areas or major traffic flows to meet the requirements of the concept.

Information. The ATM community will depend extensively on the provision of timely, relevant, accurate, accredited and quality-assured information to collaborate and make informed decisions. Sharing information on a system-wide basis will allow the ATM community to conduct its business and operations in a safe and efficient manner.

Collaboration. The ATM system is characterized by strategic and tactical collaboration in which the appropriate members of the ATM community participate in the definition of the types and levels of service. Equally important, the ATM community collaborates to maximize system efficiency by sharing information, leading to dynamic and flexible decision making.

Continuity. The realization of the concept requires contingency measures to provide maximum continuity of service in the face of major outages, natural disasters, civil unrest, security threats or other unusual circumstances.