

**58th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Dhaka, Bangladesh
15 to 19 October 2023*

**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**AVIATION SECURITY AS A CRITICAL PILLAR WITHIN
ICAO**

(Presented by United States of America)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Recalling the obligations of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Member States under the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention) to ensure the safety, security and continuity of civil aviation, this Discussion Paper posits that aviation security could be incorporated into the draft APAC Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi). This would support and reinforce aviation security as a critical pillar within ICAO.

AVIATION SECURITY AS A CRITICAL PILLAR WITHIN ICAO

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Under the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention), ICAO Member States are obligated to ensure the safety, security and continuity of civil aviation. Endorsed by the 41st Assembly, Resolution 18 (A41-18) recognized the ongoing need to promote the enhancement of security awareness and a strong and effective security culture in aviation, by Member States, industry and other stakeholders. Accordingly, the Assembly reaffirmed that aviation security must continue to be treated as a matter of highest priority, requested the Secretary General to raise the profile of aviation security within ICAO and its regional offices, and directed the Secretary General to continue to ensure that aviation security is appropriately positioned as a core tenet and functional component of the ICAO Secretariat, commensurate with its criticality to the advancement, sustainability, and safe and orderly development of international civil aviation.

1.2 Bearing in mind the existing efforts of the Asia and Pacific (APAC) Region to maintain aviation security as a priority, namely through the Regional Aviation Security Coordination Forum (RASCF), the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme – Asia Pacific (CASP-AP), and placing aviation security and facilitation as an agenda item at the annual APAC Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) meetings, it stands out that the proposed APAC Ministerial Declaration of Civil Aviation (Delhi) currently neglects to incorporate aviation security as one of its key pillars.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Over the years ICAO has incorporated aviation security equities into various fora and its activities at the Headquarters and Regional Office levels. However, the inclusion of aviation security elements is sometimes inconsistently applied or left out completely. For example, the Beijing Declaration of 2018 and consequently the draft APAC Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) that is currently being reviewed for the Second APAC Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC/2) both fail to meaningfully address aviation security equities. This is concerning particularly in light of the fact that ICAO Assembly 41 Resolution 24 (A41-24) specifically recognizes that the delivery of ICAO Strategic Objectives on security and facilitation contribute to the attainment of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alongside safety, air navigation capacity and efficiency, economic development of air transport, and environmental protection.

2.2 Acknowledging aviation security is a critical pillar of ICAO and one that contributes to robust and effective national and international aviation systems would align aviation security with other strategic objectives, such as resilience to health-related disruptions, gender equality, resourcing for civil aviation, aviation environment protection, and ratification of international air law treaties, which have all been incorporated into the draft Delhi Declaration. Incorporating aviation security equities into the draft Delhi Declaration would ensure aviation security is duly considered and promoted by Ministers responsible for civil aviation, as security is everyone's responsibility.

2.3 Supporting the addition of aviation security into the Delhi Declaration is a proactive means by which Ministers responsible for civil aviation in their State can demonstrate leadership in moving forward aviation security priorities that further the strategic objectives set forth in ICAO Assembly Resolutions, support the attainment of the United Nations SDGs, and fulfill the commitments of the ICAO No Country Left Behind Initiative.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in the paper;
- b) Commit to supporting aviation security as a critical pillar within ICAO; and

- c) Support the incorporation of aviation security into the draft APAC Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi).

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