

**55th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

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AGENDA ITEM 1: THEME TOPIC

**COLLABORATION AND HARMONISATION FOR SAFE,
SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION**

Presented by India

SUMMARY

This Discussion Paper presents a proposal for effective implementation of international Standards, practices and procedures by States and stakeholders to establish harmonisation and sustainability in aviation industry through collaboration arrangements and recognition of the equivalence of each other's security measures by avoiding duplication of security controls.

COLLABORATION AND HARMONISATION FOR SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The preamble to the Chicago convention of international civil aviation, calls for the development of civil aviation to help create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world and to promote cooperation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends. The implementation of this concept is mandated keeping in mind the fact that aviation is one of the most “global” industry: connecting people, cultures and businesses across continents. States and stakeholders throughout the aviation sector worldwide are committed to raising awareness of the benefits and the role of aviation. It is necessary for all stakeholders and partners to work together to maximize the benefits of air transport, and to support the sustainable growth of aviation by connecting more people, stake holders and more places, more often creating safe and secure environment to be achieved through collaboration in aviation security arrangements and harmonisation of security controls and procedures. In order to increase safe, secure and sustainable aviation it is essential for the contracting States and aviation stakeholders to enter into collaborative arrangements so as to ensure that the duplication of security controls in various areas of mandated screening are intelligently avoided and regulations, practices and procedures set forth by ICAO are implemented globally and universally in a harmonised atmosphere required to be created by each state with mutual cooperation for a peaceful aviation industry.

1.2 While there are several examples of collaborative security arrangements or other equivalency agreements, including recent examples in the field of air cargo, the task of determining equivalency is not straightforward and tools to assist States in determining equivalency are required to be developed at the international/Regional level to promote and encourage cooperation in this area to ensure sustainable aviation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Aviation security threats transcend national borders and affect regulators and industry globally. The objective of this strategy is to enable stake holders to collaborate more effectively and deal with aviation security issues in a comprehensive manner, such as through entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements for the collaborative security arrangements to ensure that the resources are applied in the most cost-effective manner by reducing duplication in screening of passenger, baggage and cargo. This concept has not significantly progressed and achieved by all contracting States.

2.2 **Collaboration:** Collaborative arrangements in aviation security by avoiding duplication and ensuring sustainability should be based on verification of outcome of effective security controls at origin. This approach will allow for security threats to be effectively addressed in a way that does not hamper the continued growth of civil aviation operations that will help establish sustainable aviation and achieve safety and security in aviation industry worldwide. Effective security outcomes through collaborative arrangements with harmonisation provide a State with flexibility while maintaining consistent and sustainable standards across the global system. An outcomes-based approach is the logical conclusion to a security system, which can be effectively implemented through collaboration and harmonisation amongst the States.

2.3 **Harmonisation:** The sustainability of aviation security can be enhanced by harmonizing requirements across two or more jurisdictions. For example, adopting regulatory provisions harmonized on a bilateral or regional level can create efficiencies in regulatory compliance methods and open up opportunities for oversight to be conducted in collaborative ways. The international air transport system, by its very nature, causes air operators and other entities involved in air transport to come under the regulatory jurisdiction of numerous States. As a result, they must conform to a range of aviation security and border integrity requirements, some of which may be harmonized between States, thereby facilitating

compliance, and others which may not be harmonized, thereby creating additional compliance challenges.

2.4 Establishment and maintenance of harmonisation in AVSEC documents, regulations, practices and procedures based on international Standards and implementation thereof universally through entering into collaborative arrangements by States will certainly enhance the sustainable aviation to a greater extent to prevent acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation that will ensure safe and secure aviation environment worldwide.

2.5 The current threat and risk environment demands that aviation security remains among the highest of priorities for States and the global international community. In order to fight against the terrorism and ensure safe and secure sustainable aviation environment in the world, the Contracting States and stakeholders are required to work together with the shared and common goal of enhancing aviation security worldwide to achieve safe, secure and sustainable aviation through five key priority outcomes, namely: a) enhance risk awareness and response; b) develop security culture and human capability; c) improve technological resources and innovation; d) improve oversight and quality assurance; and e) increase cooperation and support.

2.6 The global nature of aviation means that States are dependent on the effectiveness of each other's aviation security systems to provide a common and sustainable secure aviation environment which can be possible by entering into collaborative arrangements. A strengthened global aviation system will provide a conducive environment for global economic growth and development that will benefit all States. The sustained level of secure and safe civil aviation operations will prevent stakeholders from suffering human, economic, financial and other losses. Therefore, the States should fulfil their responsibilities specified by ICAO in such a manner to avoid any gaps in AVSEC system which can be exploited by the terrorist outfits to commit an acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation.

2.7 Some of important and essential AVSEC areas for entering into collaborative arrangements by the States to establish harmonisation in aviation industry and to ensure safe, secure and sustainable aviation are as under: -

- i. Provide for additional security measures in respect of a specific flight(s) by States as far as may be practicable.
- ii. Sharing of threat information, the exchange of information on techniques used to try to breach security, experience with security equipment, and operational practices are also extremely advantageous.
- iii. Sharing information on screening technologies being an essential part of the global transportation security system through the use of Regional agreements.
- iv. Inclusion of a clause on aviation security in their Regional agreements on air services. Given that harmonization of such clauses is beneficial, a model aviation security clause for bilateral agreements is included in Appendix 3 of DCO 8973 Such text should be included in regional agreements on air services.
- v. Establishing a validation process and continuously implementing procedures, in collaboration with the other Contracting State to ensure screening of passengers, their cabin baggage, hold baggage, and cargo at the point of origin and subsequently protect from unauthorized interference from the point of screening at the originating airport to the departing aircraft at the transfer airport.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) consult Member States and all stakeholders to enter into collaborative arrangements through bilateral agreements;
- b) organise workshop on the issues of collaborative arrangements relating to aviation security on a regular basis to ensure awareness of States and stakeholders to achieve a safe and secure and sustainable aviation through collaboration and harmonisation.

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