

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
FIRST MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CIVIL AVIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION
(CAR/DCA/1)

(Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 8-11 October 2002)

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE
Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance

(Presented by the United States)

Summary

This paper contains information regarding the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASA/1) held in April 2002 in Mexico, progress made since then, and details on GEASA/2 to be held in Jamaica on October 28-29, 2002, to which all States are encouraged to attend.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2001, during the Punta del Este Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (WHTI) Ministerial, Transportation Ministers signed a joint ministerial statement that directed the WHTI Executive Committee to propose an action plan that would allow for the improvement of aviation safety in the region.

1.2 In response to this request, the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASA) was convened to create such an action plan and to define issues and resolutions that would enhance the safety and security of civil aviation systems in the region.

1.3 Canada is the current chair of the GEASA and convened the first meeting (GEASA/1) on April 4-5, 2002, in Cancun, Mexico. The objective of this meeting was to establish the Terms of Reference for the GEASA. Twenty-three participants from nine countries (including the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA]) and four international organizations and financial institutions met in Cancun for this meeting. See attached **Appendix A** to this paper which lists the attendees.

1.4 GEASA has accepted Jamaica's offer to host GEASA/2 in Montego Bay on October 28-29, 2002.

2. Discussion

2.1 States in attendance at GEASA/1 meeting reviewed the terms of reference to tailor them to properly reflect the region's needs. The FAA's recommendations focused on ensuring that GEASA didn't duplicate work currently in progress in the region by considering all initiatives already underway and using GEASA as a vehicle to promote them, as appropriate. The group concurred with this viewpoint, which is reflected in the terms of reference.

2.2 Participating States in GEASA/1 had the opportunity to modify the terms of reference but it was also clearly stated that those States unable to participate in the first meeting would always be welcome to contribute as the GEASA continues to develop. To this end, the final meeting report was translated into Portuguese for Brazil who was unable to attend, as was the case for many other States, due to Feria Internacional de Aire y Espacio (FIDAE) being held the same week. This report is available from Transport Canada.

2.3 Since GEASA/1, participating States have actively pursued action items taken during the meeting. Transport Canada and the FAA have met with multilateral development banks (MDBs) to inquire about programs, discuss the GEASA concept, and explain the link between strong civil aviation infrastructures to economic growth (i.e. agriculture and tourism sectors). The MDBs provided criteria used to determine funding of a proposed project, which will be incorporated in GEASA's criteria guidelines.

2.4 Costa Rica has offered to co-chair the GEASA and an announcement is anticipated regarding this nomination at GEASA/2.

2.5 Topics to be discussed at GEASA/2 will include clarification of GEASA's role in the region, a review of action items from GEASA/1, discussion and feedback on GEASA criteria development guidelines, introduction of the new GEASA manager for Transport Canada, coordination between ICAO and GEASA, a presentation by the World Bank, and discussion on proposed and future aviation safety and security projects to be supported by GEASA.

3. Conclusion

3.1 It is important to underscore that GEASA/1 agreed to and emphasized that States would be best served by GEASA if it supported and complemented efforts already underway in the region.

3.2 As noted in the introduction, Ministers of Transportation from all States signed the declaration that called for the establishment of a mechanism that would enhance and maintain aviation safety and security in the region. At the next WHTI Ministerial, to be held in Mexico in April 2003, GEASA will provide a report of its progress to meet that goal.

3.3 The FAA encourages all States, those that attended the first meeting and those that could not, to participate in GEASA/2. GEASA has the potential of providing the political will necessary to implement and sustain necessary changes in many countries.

Appendix A

GEASA Meeting

April 4-5, 2002, Cancun, Mexico

NAME/Title	ORGANIZA TION
Merlin Preuss Director General of Civil Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Robert Shuter Director, International Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Gilles Bourgeois Deputy Director, International Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Elizabeth Leiva Senior Adviser International Relations	CANADA/WHTI Executive Committee
Cnel. (Nav.) Felix A. Torroni Director General de Aviacion Civil	URUGUAY Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Mario Amestoy Doufour Presidente	URUGUAY Camara Uruguaya de Turismo
Miguel Ramos Representative of Costa Rica to the Council of ICAO	COSTA RICA Direccion General de Aviacion Civil
Capt. Rodrigo Brenes Inspector de Operaciones	ACSA Agencia CentroAmericana de Seguridad Aeronautica
Michael E. Daniel Manager, International Programs	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
John A. Barbagallo Assistant Manager, International Programs	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Bonnie Ahumada International Aviation Operations Specialist	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Mayte Ashby International Aviation Operations Specialist	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Lt. Col. Oscar Derby Deputy Director General	JAMAICA Civil Aviation Authority
Maj. George Kates Inspector Safety/Security	JAMAICA Airports Authority
Manuel Abundio Maldonado E. Director Interventor	GUATEMALA Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil

Noel Hurtarte González Sub-Gerente de Seguridad Aeroportuaria	GUATEMALA Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Juan Luis Barrios Quan	GUATEMALA Servicios Aereos Profesionales
Luis Samayo A. Hamel	GUATEMALA DGAC
Cap. Mauro R. Gomez Peralta Damirón Director, Direccion de Control	MEXICO Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Sergio Paris Mendoza Adviser, Air Navigation	COLOMBIA Aeronautica Civil Unidad Administrativa Especial
John H. Viera Director of Civil Aviation	SURINAME Dept. of Civil Aviation
Asako Yamamoto Multilateral Investment Fund	IDB Inter-American Development Bank
Raymond Ybarra Regional Director	ICAO ICAO –North American, Central American and Caribbean Office