

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

1. Overview of the global regulatory framework established by Annex 9 — *Facilitation*

Annex 9 — *Facilitation* is considered one of the most diverse Annexes to the Chicago Convention, as it comprises a wide variety of topics related to aviation that are multidisciplinary and linked to other Annexes. This session will provide high-level information on ICAO's role and mandate related to facilitation matters highlighting recent developments in Annex 9, which include a review of Amendment 29 to Annex 9 — *Facilitation* and the work on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly (A41), as summarized in resolution A41-17: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation* which highlights notably the importance of national and international actions and cooperation on facilitation matters.

2. Facilitating the air traveller journey

It is intended to review the facilitation processes and the border control formalities with the aim of reducing congestion at departure control points and in the interest of improving facilitation by streamlining traffic flows. The session will discuss proposed unified and safe strategies for worldwide implementation, leading to the rationalization of the processing of passengers and crews during their journey. There is a need for continued action by Member States to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance control formalities and the establishment and active operation of national air transport facilitation programmes and facilitation committees is a proven means of effecting needed improvements. Cooperation on facilitation matters among Member States and with the various national, regional, and international parties, and industry interested in facilitation matters has brought benefits to all concerned and allowed to substantially improve the passenger experience.

3. Accessibility in International Civil Aviation

Facilitation of the transport of persons with disabilities is a major challenge for air transport facilitation, as a significant and expanding portion of the global population comprises persons with disabilities and reduced mobility. As a result, it is becoming increasingly important to render accessibility in aviation for all passengers worldwide, particularly those most vulnerable, such as those with disabilities. However, certain barriers prevent elderly and disabled persons from utilizing international air transportation services to their full potential. These obstacles include varying requirements throughout the passenger journey. The Summit will discuss how to develop an effective ICAO strategy on accessibility for passengers with disabilities and reduced mobility in order to reach for a disability-inclusive air transport system in cooperation with all the stakeholders. This session will build on the actions identified in the Assembly Resolution A41-15: *Accessibility in International Civil Aviation*.

4. Management of public health-related matters in aviation

This session will place an emphasis on the recognized need for the enhancement of data sharing possibilities and capabilities, across government and the private sector, in order to facilitate seamless and contactless travel processes. The planned discussions between health and civil aviation authorities will include the major challenges civil aviation faces during different types of public health events and the identification of lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure the future resilience of aviation, the application of border control and entry requirements should be as globally interoperable as possible.

5. Benefits of Innovation on the future air traveler's journey

This session will consider the different areas of innovation in air transport Facilitation and their impact on the typical future traveler's journey. Member States that have experience in facilitating the introduction of innovation in civil aviation, and that have evolved their regulatory methods to better evaluate and assess the application of such innovations, will be encouraged to share their experience with other States through ICAO. Consideration will notably be given to innovative digital systems and tools allowing seamless, contactless, quicker and more efficient cross-border processes from departure to arrival in an airport. The discussion will highlight both the need for agility of stakeholders in incorporating new data in the processes when necessary and the key role of interoperability in the implementation of seamless and contactless solutions.

Closing session: Dialogue on high-level principles focusing on how internal coordination as well as regional and international cooperation are keys to successful implementation of Facilitation measures.