



SECOND HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY (HLCAS/2)

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Agenda Item 3: Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP)

USAP-CMA AND THE FRENCH APPROACH TO ASSESS SECURITY MEASURES

(Presented by France)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This note presents France's proposals to improve ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP-CMA) by sharing the experience gained from its airport assessment programme.

1. NEED TO REFORM USAP-CMA AUDITS

1.1 The rapid evolution of terrorism in recent years and the great deal of interest of radical groups in civil aviation, as evidenced by recent attacks against civil aircraft and airports, require a rise in the global level of civil aviation security. As recalled by UN Security Council Resolution 2309, air transport remains one of the preferred targets of terrorists, which requires resolute and vigorous action by States. The launch of the Global Security Plan (GASeP) adopted by ICAO is fully in line with this approach.

1.2 However, this approach cannot be resolved by purely regulatory developments. Effective verification of the implementation of the measures, both to ensure a high level of security and to ensure trust between States, is essential. As such, the USAP audit reform initiated in 2015 led to significant improvements. The work of the ICAO Secretariat Study Group on the USAP, which is to be welcomed, has addressed problems in adapting the audit program to successive amendments to Annex 17. Nevertheless, there are often significant differences between the overall result (percentage of actual implementation) of some State audits and the actual level of security on the ground. This finding makes a much more ambitious change necessary.

1.3 In addition to the documents presented by the Member States of the European Union and the European Civil Aviation Conference and by the Secretariat, which are going in the right direction, France wishes to present its approach which can usefully inspire future reflections on this topic.

¹ English and French versions provided by France.

2. THE FRENCH APPROACH

2.1 In keeping with the fundamental principle guiding ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, the role of ICAO audits must be to verify that the basic regulatory measures underpinning the security are properly applied, concerning for example perimeter protection and the screening of passengers, of their cabin and hold baggage, of cargo and of staff working in sensitive areas of airports.

2.2 However, because the threat is not homogeneous and varies widely across different local, national or regional contexts, stronger measures may be needed.

2.3 In addition to the USAP-CMA audits, France conducts security measures assessments of some airports in third countries from which its territory is served by direct flights. These assessments, in the context of a high terrorist threat against air transport, provide the necessary guarantees for the protection of inbound flights to France and are conducted in full transparency and cooperation with the authorities of the concerned country, from which prior agreement is systematically sought.

2.4 These assessments are guided by a risk-based approach aiming at determining in the most concrete way possible whether the protection measures of the concerned airport make it possible to contain the most credible terrorist attack scenarios against air transport at a given moment and on a given airport. This approach seeks to escape from a procedure of strict regulatory compliance, to take into account the latest developments in the terrorist threat and to prioritize the assessment areas on the most critical elements.

2.5 Concretely, these assessments are based on:

- a) an analysis of the organization of security in the country;
- b) interviews with all airport security actors; and most importantly
- c) field observations of security measures that are implemented in order to contain the most credible threat scenarios that have been identified for the concerned airport.

The results of these assessments are always shared with the authorities of the hosting country.

2.6 Based on assessment results, France is in a position to:

- a) give recommendations, where appropriate, to the authorities of the given country and to concerned airlines, regarding operational improvements of their security system at a given airport; and to
- b) offer targeted cooperation actions regarding any potential detected vulnerability.

2.7 This pragmatic approach, based on the sharing of results and proposing concrete axes for cooperation, allows stakeholders to enroll in a virtuous process.

2.8 In the framework of the current reflection regarding the objectives and methods of USAP-CMA audits, this risk-based-approach comprising a robust operational dimension could be usefully taken into account by ICAO Secretariat.