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ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 15: Aviation Security – Implementation Support

**PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY (ESAC),
ICAO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, ASTC/ESAC**

(Presented by the Dominican Republic)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper is intended to share the Dominican Republic's commitment to excellence and co-operation, together with the training efforts undertaken by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) through the School of Civil Aviation Security (ESAC), which has been certified as a new AVSEC regional training centre. By taking this step and offering a broad curriculum, it seeks to contribute to the development and improvement of aviation security training within, and outside of, the region.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective B – <i>Security</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable.
<i>References:</i>	A38-WP/13 — Declaration on Aviation Security and the ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS) A38-WP/20 — Aviation Security Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy Law No. 188-11 from 22 July 2011 on Airport and Civil Aviation Security in the Dominican Republic

¹ Spanish version provided by the Dominican Republic.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Dominican Republic wishes to present the practices of the School of Civil Aviation Security (ESAC). This school's mission is to train, coach and develop the personnel involved in activities specific to the civil aviation security services, in accordance with national and international documents. In order to support the exchange of information and co-operation between States, this school has joined the training efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as a new AVSEC regional training centre. In this way, it seeks to serve as a reference in the Caribbean region and play a supporting role in the development and promotion of international civil aviation security.

1.2. In a similar vein, this centre is at the disposition of States in the region in order to provide specialized training and share best practices as support for the implementation of ICAO programmes.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Subsequent to the founding of the Airport and Civil Aviation Security Specialized Corps (CESAC), the need arose to create an education and training centre for the purpose of effectively equipping its staff with theoretical and practical knowledge related to civil aviation security. Thus, this led to the emergence of the School of Civil Aviation Security (ESAC), under Major General Pilot Luís Damián Castro Cruz, FAD (Dominican Armed Forces), as a unit of CESAC, founded on 5 April 1999. The school currently has Article 101 of Law No. 188-11 from 22 July 2011 on Airport and Civil Aviation Security as its legal basis.

2.2. ESAC has trained over 2000 AVSEC security members to date, with a view to strengthening civil aviation security. The centre's staff, together with members from other States, have received training conducted by different international bodies that are actively involved in the airport security sector such as: ICAO, TSA, CICTE and the OAS.

3. ESAC AS AN ICAO CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

3.1. Information about the certification of the School of Civil Aviation Security (ESAC) of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as a Civil Aviation Regional Training Centre (ASTC/ESAC) was made public in a letter from the ICAO Secretary General, Mr Raymond Benjamin, on 14 May 2013. This certification demonstrates its ability to meet the training needs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Region and contribute to developing and improving aviation security training, as a complement to the global initiatives of ICAO's ASTC worldwide network. This has been achieved as a result of institutional work and efforts, which began in 2010, and which have undergone rigorous evaluation processes and academic, administrative and infrastructural improvements in order to reach this objective.

3.2. The ESAC offers curricula based on current needs, which constitute a response to threats and risk management in the field of civil aviation security. It also possesses extensive experience in the delivery of AVSEC training, making use of the following Standardized Training Packages (STP) from the ICAO Network:

- a) Basic Training for Airport Security Personnel;

- b) AVSEC Supervisor Training;
- c) Aviation Security Instructors;
- d) National Inspectors;
- e) Aviation Security Crisis Management;
- f) Organization of Aviation Security Exercises;
- g) Civil Aviation Security Management; and
- h) Cargo Handling.

3.3. These academic programmes are endorsed through internal control mechanisms, certified under ISO Standard 9001:2008 as part of CESAC's Quality Management System. This results in the efficient and effective use of the teaching tools used for these purposes, as well as the application of teaching methods consistent with course planning.

3.4. In order to ensure that ESAC can effectively provide this offer, it relies on 34 active instructors who have a great deal of experience in AVSEC matters and are qualified in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme (PNISAC) provisions on the Qualification of Security Instructors. They also have a great vocation for teaching and extensive experience in facilitating the teaching-learning process through the use of innovative methodological strategies, which permit the trainee to develop intellectually. This team of highly qualified instructors, certified according to ICAO's ASTP and TRAINAIR Methodology, are trained in the different categories of civil aviation security.

3.5. In order to facilitate and enable learning, ESAC possesses a modern infrastructure, which extends over a surface area of 1,500 square metres and has the most advanced equipment for AVSEC training, such as:

- a) a virtual classroom, something unique in the Caribbean, to provide training in the interpretation of X ray images of all of the possible threats against civil aviation and the various attempts to transport controlled substances or restricted use articles on board an aircraft.
- b) a library equipped with computers, internet access, digital and physical documents on civil aviation security and other related aspects.
- c) ten classrooms equipped with a projector, projection screen, computer, wireless internet, laser pointer for slide presentations, air conditioning, comfortable furniture and sound equipment, inter alia.

3.6. The school has other facilities such as: accommodation, a laundry room, cafeteria, medical clinic, dental clinic, gymnasium, swimming pool and sports court.

3.7. ESAC's philosophy is based on continuous training in order to maintain the readiness of our members and consequently, service quality. In order to achieve this, once AVSEC staff members have graduated and been sent to provide services at the country's different airport terminals, they undergo regular annual training, which consists of theoretical evaluations concerning airport security procedures as well as practical evaluations on-the-job and in the virtual classroom.

3.8. Every two years these staff members are sent to undergo recertification at CESAC's Accreditation and Certification Branch in order to measure and evaluate the recurrent training process for these staff members and identify improvements that contribute to its transformation. This approach includes medical, theoretical and practical tests, which enable deficiencies in the continuous training process to be detected that have a negative impact on airport security, as well as defining improvement opportunities.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Certification of ESAC as a region-wide AVSEC training centre demonstrates the Dominican Republic's commitment to excellence and by taking this step, it is showing its ability to develop an extensive and diverse curricular offer at national and international level. This will convert it into a reference centre for the Caribbean and Latin American Region that is based on the security needs of the airports in the region. Moreover, it will at the same time serve as a trump card in terms of contributing to the development of an ever more secure, efficient and valued airport sector, both nationally and internationally.

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