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WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14: Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP)

AVSEC QUALITY CONTROL – THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Presented by the Dominican Republic)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CESAC Department of Civil Aviation Security Quality Control of the Dominican Republic, in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme, has conducted aviation security audits, inspections, studies, trials and investigations to check for effective implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 17 – *Security* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, as stipulated in the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (PNSAC). The Dominican Republic has been exercising continual oversight of aviation security operations, ensuring that security standards, measures and procedures are applied in compliance with the provisions of the National Civil Aviation Security Programme.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective B – <i>Security</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No financial implications.
<i>References:</i>	A38-WP/13 – <i>Declaration on Aviation Security and the ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS)</i> ; A38-WP/16 – <i>Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP)</i> ; A38-WP/20 – <i>Aviation Security Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy; Safety Oversight Manual, Part C – The Establishment and Management of a State’s Safety Oversight System</i> (Document 9734).

¹ Spanish version provided by the Dominican Republic.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the Dominican Republic, the Department of Civil Aviation Security Quality Control of CESAC, in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme, has conducted aviation security audits, inspections, studies, trials and investigations that have led to improvements in the process for the timely rectification of deficiencies. The civil aviation security oversight system serves to verify effective implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 17 – *Security* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, as per the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (PNSAC). This is particularly important for the consistent oversight of standards at national level.

1.2 The Civil Aviation and Airport Security Task Force (CESAC) was created by Law No. 188-11 on *Civil Aviation and Airport Security*. CESAC reports to the Ministry of the Armed Forces, the competent authority for civil aviation security that has the power to enforce said law and the Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 17.

1.3 To address the new challenges of maintaining the civil aviation security oversight system, this organization introduced a structural quality control process in 2009. ISO-9001: 2008 certification was attained in 2010, thus strengthening the commitment to excellence in ensuring that civil aviation security operations are carried out to the highest standard, for the benefit of air transport users and the aviation community as a whole. The AVSEC Quality Control Department, which is in charge of verifying implementation of PNSAC security standards, measures and procedures, is a part of this quality management system, and quality control activities are continually monitored for compliance with its internal procedures. This guarantees consistency with the work of national AVSEC inspectors, in accordance with the National AVSEC Quality Control Programme.

2. THE AVSEC-CESAC QUALITY CONTROL DEPARTMENT

2.1 The High-level Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in February 2002, recommended that ICAO conduct regular, mandatory, systematic and harmonized aviation security audits, and that the civil aviation security audit programme apply to all Contracting States.

2.2 Annex 17 – *Security*, 7th Edition of April 2002, Standard 3.4.4 states, “Each Contracting State shall require the appropriate authority to develop, implement and maintain a national civil aviation quality control programme to determine compliance with and validate the effectiveness of its national civil aviation security programme.”

2.3 This Annex 17 Standard prompted the competent authority for civil aviation security of the Dominican Republic to create, in 2004, the Department of Civil Aviation Security Quality Control under the General Directorate of then CESA. The main purpose of the Department was to oversee compliance with the security standards, measures and procedures of the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (PNSAC) and validate effectiveness through security audits, inspections, studies, trials and investigations.

2.4 With the creation of the AVSEC Quality Control Department came the need to develop a National Quality Control Programme, the first edition of which was issued in 2005. In addition, staff had to be trained to conduct AVSEC quality control activities and accomplish programme objectives. So it was that, in 2009, the Civil Aviation Security School (ESAC) of the Department offered the first national

AVSEC inspectors course, using the ICAO Standardized Training Packages (STPs). Eight employees of the Department graduated from the course and were certified for the job. The CESAC AVSEC Quality Control Department presently has 22 certified National AVSEC Inspectors.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AVSEC-CESAC QUALITY CONTROL DEPARTMENT

3.1 The AVSEC-CESAC Quality Control Department has made great strides since its creation in 2004. Its staff of CESAC-certified National AVSEC Inspectors have participated in courses and workshops organized by ICAO in the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Ecuador, Cuba, Belgium and Panama. Professional exchanges with these States have brought a high level of professionalism and qualifications, driving improvements in the national civil aviation security oversight system.

3.2 Following the ICAO second cycle security audit of the Dominican Republic under the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) in February 2011, the AVSEC-CESAC Quality Control Department has developed and implemented a number of tools for systematically determining the level of compliance with security standards, methods, measures and procedures by the various units that perform security functions at national airports and aerodromes, and those responsible for PNSAC implementation. These tools are intended to reverse the lack of effective compliance with Critical Element CE-7: *Quality Control Obligations* of the security oversight system.

3.3 To reinforce AVSEC-CESAC Quality Control activities, the Dominican Republic has passed Law No. 188-11 on Civil Aviation and Airport Security, which gives legal powers to the AVSEC Quality Control Department and AVSEC National Inspectors to freely conduct said activities. This has allowed for the recommendation of criminal and administrative penalties, including fines, against physical and legal persons found to be in violation of the standards, measures and procedures set out in the Civil Aviation Security Regulations (DSAC), and for failings to be remedied.

3.4 Beginning in 2012, to raise the level of compliance with the aforementioned Critical Element, the AVSEC Quality Control Department and CESAC have been steadily increasing civil aviation security oversight, with the result that innumerable deficiencies under the DSAC standards, measures and procedures have been resolved.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Following the introduction of the civil aviation security oversight system and the National AVSEC Quality Control Programme in 2004, and as a result of AVSEC quality control actions, the Dominican Republic has been able to develop, exercise and maintain continuous oversight of aviation security operations and ensure that the security standards, measures and procedures are applied in line with the PNSAC.

4.2 CESAC as the competent authority for civil aviation security oversight continues to develop and implement new tools for maintaining the AVSEC quality control system in accordance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and the needs of the State.

4.3 In light of the foregoing, it is a prime objective of the Dominican Republic to have an AVSEC quality control oversight system that is well established and managed and that analyses activity reports to verify compliance with the standards. Such a system makes it possible to identify, prevent and rectify deficiencies in the civil aviation security oversight system in a timely manner.

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