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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 30: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC PILOT LICENSE (EPL) IN CHINA

(Presented by China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents an upgrade of China's implementation of electronic pilot license (EPL), including latest features of electronic licenses designed by Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) for the standard formats of electronic licenses recommended by ICAO. This paper also introduces CAAC's support for the ICAO Electronic Personnel License Task Force (EPL-TF) and the amendment of EPL in Annex 1 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and other related guidance materials.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates Strategic Objective of Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency.
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<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable.
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<i>References:</i>	Annex 1 — <i>Personnel Licensing</i>
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¹English and Chinese versions provided by China.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper presents an update of the implementation of EPL in China.
- 1.2 This working paper describes CAAC's action of support for EPL-TF and the amending process of EPL in Annex 1 at ICAO and other related guidance materials.
- 1.3 This paper also describes the features of EPL information format developed by CAAC for ICAO.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As of 30 April 2019, CAAC issued a total of 65 000 EPLs, and 45000 EPLs for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Since the full implementation of EPL in 2017, the licensing system has been operating stably and its technical standards have become more mature. CAAC has received positive feedback from administrative subjects. The operational efficiency of EPL within China has improved significantly, as evidenced by the time needed for an applicant to acquire a license being reduced by 80%, and operator's management costs for maintaining qualification files falling dramatically.

2.2 In accordance with the requirements on EPL-TF, CAAC provided best practices for implementing EPL, and worked together with EPL-TF members to develop a preliminary draft text on EPL in Annex 1, and reached agreement with members on major principles for EPL implementation. CAAC has provided a basic framework paper and a discussion paper for the EPL implementation guidance material. The basic framework has become a basis on which the guidance material is going to be developed separately by EPL-TF teams. It is planned that in the near future, a State letter will be issued to collect feedback of States regarding the new amendment text to Annex 1.

2.3 After the first meeting of EPL-TF, CAAC had consultations with other States and international organizations on EPL-related issues through the ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Team (AP-RAST) and unilateral workshops (such as those with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and Singapore Civil Aviation Authority, etc.). The consultations covered mainly, among others, EPL implementation principles, global promotion strategies, supporting system frameworks, security and counterfeiting-proof measures, and implementation challenges and solutions.

2.4 According to the results of EPL-TF/1 discussion, the following improvements were adopted for EPL counterfeiting verification supporting technology:

- a) electronic signatures provided by government-validated third-parties have been introduced. Key information of licenses was encrypted to ensure that when the inspectors verify the EPL, the license information obtained by inspectors is from the server of the licensing country, and that the information has not undergone any modifications or tampering, so that the EPL is authentic and effective;
- b) the timestamp display of the last time when EPL request data return from the server of licensing country was introduced; and
- c) validation mechanism under online/offline scenarios was improved.

2.5 Continuous improvement of EPL service capabilities and customer experience:

- a) medical check certificate was incorporated in the EPL, and the function of making medical check appointment and applying for medical check certificate via EPL was realized;
- b) all types of licenses and ratings can be applied via EPL, and the licensing process has realized paperless-operation based on EPL and back-stage supporting systems; and
- c) the function of electronic experience record was improved to clarify the filling rules of electronic experience, and obtain flight information from air traffic control system and other cooperative data service providers, to realize automatic retrieval of flight time and loading of electronic experience record.

2.6 According to the EPL-TF/1 discussion, CAAC has developed the ICAO recommended Standard EPL format in China's EPL. The new interface enabled fast shifting based on independent buttons, so that inspectors may verify the EPL in offline environment, minimizing obstacles in EPL global promotion caused by design differences in the interface.

3. **IMPACT EVALUATION**

3.1 Issuing EPL will serve to improve licensing efficiency and may lead to significantly reduction of administrative costs.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Assembly is invited to:

- a) call on States to take note of the update of EPL implementation in China; and
- b) call on States to follow the amendment of EPL in Annex 1 by ICAO.

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