



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

INFORMATION PAPER

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**North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) States Civil Aviation Authorities Directors
General Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Aviation Recovery and Restart**

14 April 2021

Agenda Item 4: Relevant Safety, Security and Air Navigation Implementation Matters

RELEVANT AVSEC/FAL MATTERS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THIS information paper details the work conducted in the Aviation Security and Facilitation (AVSEC/FAL) fields during 2020 and the priorities of the ICAO NACC Regional Office for 2021.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security & Facilitation
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 9, Facilitation• Annex 17, Security

1. Introduction

1.1 The entire civil aviation has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The air transport suffered an unprecedented collapse and civil aviation operations were adapted to the new reality in record time. The procedures are in continuous review while most States are still struggling with new outbreaks and new waves of the virus.

1.2 Under this context, most of ICAO's planned activities (from Headquarters or Regional Offices) were suspended or adapted in order to be remotely delivered. ICAO focused in providing guidance to governments and industry operators in order to restart the international air transport sector and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 on a coordinated global basis.

1.3 Regarding aviation security and facilitation, efforts were directed to ensure that States implemented harmonized contingency measures while maintaining a strong aviation security system. The major concern was the protection of screeners, passengers and staff, ensuring, at the same time, compliance with Annex 17 and Annex 9 provisions.

2. 2020 Developments in the NAM/CAR Region on Aviation Security and Facilitation

2.1 The work programme of the ICAO NACC Regional Office initially approved for 2020 on aviation security and facilitation suffered a complete change in March, when all on-site missions and face-to-face events were cancelled.

2.2 Although some assistance missions were conducted until mid-March 2020, the work programme was reshaped and guidance on implementing harmonized aviation security and facilitation contingency measures against the COVID-19 was prioritized.

2.3 Therefore, the activities conducted during 2020 can be classified as activities under the regular programme and COVID-related activities:

AVSEC/FAL Regular Programme 2020

- **Routine tasks:** Support and guidance in AVSEC/FAL matters to all ICAO States from the NAM/CAR Regions. Regular tasks: AVSEC/FAL Point of Contact (PoC) Network Test, review of the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) implementation goals, etc.
- **Assistance missions:**
 - National AVSEC Instructors Course for Haiti in Dominican Republic (6-13 March 2020).
 - Risk Assessment Mission to Grenada (Saint George's, 8-13 March 2020).
 - ICAO Programme for Aviation Volunteers (IPAV) Project RLA20301 – Evaluation of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) Organizational Infrastructure (October-December 2020)
- **Organization and preparation** (working papers, presentations) of:
 - Two AVSEC/FAL NAM/CAR and SAM Regional Group extraordinary virtual meetings (May and September 2020).
- **Participation as speakers** in:
 - 'Drones: Emerging Threat vs. Security' Seminar (Mexico City, 2-3 March 2020).
 - 'Measures to be implemented in the different phases planned in the recovery of the airport security sector' Spanish Security and Crisis Alliance (AESYC) Webinar (3 June 2020, in Spanish).
 - ACI webinar on 'One-Stop Security' (10 July 2020).
 - ICAO/CANSO/AIRBUS Webinar on Aviation Cybersecurity Implementation (1 December 2020).
- **Global events organized by ICAO Headquarters:**
 - ICAO Global Aviation Security Symposium 2020 (AVSEC2020) (18 December 2020).
- **Training:** No ICAO-sponsored events conducted at ICAO Aviation Security Training Centres (ASTC) from the NAM/CAR Regions in 2020.

COVID-19 Related Activities 2020

- **Organization and preparation** (working papers, presentations) of:
 - Webinar - Aviation Security after COVID-19 Pandemic. Experiences in the NAM/CAR Regions (20-21 May 2020).
- **Participation as speakers** in:
 - 'Civil Aviation Security. POST-COVID Scenarios and Perspectives' webinar (Mexico City, 28-30 October 2020, in Spanish). Health Security in Civil Aviation. Passenger and Hand Luggage Control seminar (Mexico City, 7-8 December 2020, in Spanish).
- **Global events organized by ICAO Headquarters:**
 - FAL iPack presentation meetings (16 and 18 June 2020)

- ICAO COVID-19 Webinar Series (e.g. Public Health Corridor, aviation security contingency measures) (www.icao.int/Meetings/webinar-series/Pages/ArchivedWebinars.aspx)

2.4 Regarding guidance material, the production was strongly influenced by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines, manuals and reports were produced by Civil Aviation Authorities, industry stakeholders and ICAO. ICAO's Aviation Security and Facilitation Section, under the Air Transport Bureau, was in charge of gathering and issuing guidance on aviation security and facilitation, being all the process coordinated by the ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART). The ICAO NACC Regional Office also gathered all the contingency measures in common reported by the States. The main AVSEC/FAL-related documents produced in 2020 are listed below:

- Guidelines for Aviation Security contingency measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic (2nd edition).
- NAM/CAR/SAM COVID-19 Matrix detailing AVSEC measures adopted for the recovery of civil aviation operations.
- ICAO CART Take-Off Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis (3rd edition).

3. 2021 Developments in the NAM/CAR Regions on Aviation Security and Facilitation

3.1 The year 2021 continued with lockdowns and travel restrictions imposed by the States, although the situation started to improve due to the progress with vaccinations. Until further notice, ICAO NACC Regional Office activities will continue to be conducted remotely.

3.2 ICAO, during the fourth annual ICAO Global Aviation Security Symposium (AVSEC2020) on 18 December 2020, declared 2021 the ICAO "Year of Security Culture (YOSC)" to enhance security awareness and security culture. Therefore, ICAO will execute a global security culture campaign this year, which implies the development of resources (e.g. toolkits, videos), guidance, training and films.

3.3 Below, the activities already conducted and planned are summarized, distinguishing between regular programme, COVID-related activities and activities under the YOSC:

AVSEC/FAL Regular Programme 2021

- **Routine tasks:** Support, guidance and remote assistance in AVSEC/FAL matters to all ICAO NAM/CAR States. Regular tasks: AVSEC/FAL PoCs Network Test, review of GAsEP implementation goals, etc.
- **Organization and preparation** (working papers, presentations) of:
 - Webinar on Unruly and/or Disruptive Passengers. An Emerging Issue. (25 March 2021).
 - NAM/CAR and SAM AVSEC/FAL Regional Group virtual meeting before AVSECP/32 (31 May – 4 June 2021).
- **Participation as speakers** in:
 - 2nd ICAO/CANSO/AIRBUS Webinar on Aviation Cybersecurity Implementation (16-18 March 2021).
 - X GAP Security Symposium (22-24 March 2021).
- **Global events organized by ICAO Headquarters:**
 - ICAO USAP-CMA Online Seminar (6-9 April 2021).
- **Assistance projects** (on hold):
 - Project on Assistance to Travelers with Disabilities/Older Adults.
 - Project on Risk Assessments to NAM/CAR States.
- **Training:**
 - AVSEC Managers Workshop (7-day event, expected to be available from 1 September 2021).
 - Three ICAO-sponsored virtual-class events at ICAO ASTCs from the NAM/CAR Regions in 2021: ASTC Port of Spain; ASTC Santo Domingo; and ASTC Mexico City.

COVID-19 Related Activities 2021

- **ICAO COVID-19 Implementation Packages (iPacks):**
 - Strengthening National Air Transport Facilitation Committees for the Re-start and the Resilience of Civil Aviation. Expected delivery for **ECCAA**.
 - COVID-19 Aviation Security Quality Control Oversight. Expected delivery in **Bahamas** and **El Salvador**.

YOSC Activities (<http://www.icao.int/Security/Security-Culture/Pages/default.aspx>)

- **ICAO Security Culture Workshop** (under development).
- **ICAO e-learning packages** (cybersecurity expected to be available during second half of 2021).
- **Shareable resources:** YOSC signature blocks and Power point templates, films on security culture (under development).

4. Final considerations

4.1 The content shared in this information paper has been developed for information purposes of NAM/CAR States. Considering this, States must be aware that the activities corresponding to the work programme 2021 may suffer changes and depend on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.