



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization**Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Communications/
Navigation and Surveillance Sub-group (CNS SG/27)
of APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 28 August – 01 September 2023

Agenda Item 13: Innovation and new technologies**UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICAO SECRETARIAT STRATEGY ON
INNOVATION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of the actions undertaken under the scope of the implementation of Resolution A40-27 - Innovation in Aviation and highlights upcoming initiatives of relevance to the Middle East Region, which will span across the 2023-2025 triennium.

Action by the meeting is detailed at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has played an essential role in supporting the development of a safe and innovative aviation sector for the past 75 years. The emergence of disruptive concepts and new entrants require the reinforcement of ICAO's support in liaising with the industry and fostering the deployment of innovations. In particular, the adoption of Resolution A40-27 Innovation in Aviation at the 40th Session of the Assembly set the path towards a resilient and innovative civil aviation, while requiring the involvement of the Organization as a whole and the engagement of traditional and new aviation stakeholders.

1.2 The 41st Session of the Assembly endorsed the priorities of ICAO on the promotion of innovation in aviation in support of the ICAO Strategic Objectives and of the ICAO Member States and supported the work of ICAO in the implementation of Assembly Resolution A40-27 *Innovation in Aviation*.

2. DISCUSSION**2.1 ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation**

2.1.1 Following the adoption of Resolution A40-27: Innovation in Aviation during the 40th Session of the Assembly, ICAO has accelerated measures to support the global international civil aviation sector in taking timely action to monitor and evaluate innovations, in a way that no country will be left behind, while supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.1.2 This Resolution encourages experience sharing on innovation between Member States, along with the reinforcement of the relationship between ICAO and States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the relevant United Nations system

entities. It also sets a goal related to ICAO processes and working methods to fully support the consideration of innovation in all the activities led by the Organization.

2.1.3 In this context, the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation (available at <https://www.icao.int/innovation/Pages/default.aspx>) has been endorsed in April 2022 by the ICAO Secretary General. The document describes the ambition and objectives for innovation within the Organization, in accordance with the goals and directives set by ICAO Assembly Resolutions and ICAO Strategic Objectives. The strategy and associated 12-month rolling implementation plan build on the work traditionally and continuously undertaken to integrate innovation in all ICAO activities and processes in a streamlined and coordinated manner. However, the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation forms a first step in the consolidation of ICAO's work on innovation and will be subject to evolution, as the Organization gains maturity on the topic.

2.2 Approach for the 2023-2025 triennium

2.2.1 ICAO is committed to support the deployment of innovations and key initiatives for the benefit of the aviation community. The Organization will continue to support its Member States and the Council in the implementation of Resolution A40-27 and relevant action taken by the 41st Session of the Assembly. In particular, opportunities for experience and information sharing between ICAO stakeholders will be reinforced through high-level events and complementary actions.

2.2.2 Member States are encouraged to take part to upcoming activities and engage with innovators by the means of the Innovation Webinar Series, the Innovation Workshops and the Innovation Fairs (<https://www.icao.int/innovation/Pages/default.aspx>). The ICAO 2024 Innovation Fair “*Digital Aviation: The Future is now*” will be convened by ICAO from 12 to 14 March 2024 in Montréal, Canada. The results of the global competition on innovation launched on 26 September 2022 will be announced on this occasion. It is an opportunity to expand ICAO's outreach and visibility to a younger generation, and advocate aviation as the sector where innovations abound. (State Letter 23/050 refers).

2.2.3 The ICAO Innovation Workshop was launched in March 2023 and aim to support ICAO's Member States in understanding the regulatory challenges and possible solutions to stimulate innovation in aviation. It provides a space where all aviation stakeholders will be able to identify themes of common interest and together define appropriate answers to ease the implementation of innovative concepts and their integration to the traditional aviation ecosystem. The workshop will be delivered for the States accredited to the APAC Regional Office on 6 and 7 September 2023.

2.2.4 As per Resolution A40-27, the development and implementation of new regulatory methods to better evaluate and assess the applications of innovations will be key for the Organization. An independent assessment on innovation will contribute to this ambition, with the aim to review ICAO's current practices, formalize expectations and identify gaps in the context of the four dimensions of innovation specific to the Organization. In parallel, following the decisions of the 41st Session of the Assembly, ICAO has been conceptualizing an Innovation Portal, as a digital hub hosted by ICAO, accessible via the innovation webpage, where companies and researchers would be encouraged to publish information on their latest innovative projects, concepts and solutions applicable to the sustainable development of air transport. The portal would contribute to building a community of aviation and innovation stakeholders and would help anticipate future services and technological developments applicable to aviation.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the work undertaken since the 40th Session of the Assembly;

- b) consider the involvement in the actions outlined for the 2023-2025 triennium, in particular;
- c) participate in the Innovation Workshop (online) for APAC Region on 6 and 7 September 2023, as well as the ICAO 2024 Innovation Fair to be held in Montréal, Canada, from 12 to 14 March 2024;
- d) consider supporting the development of the ICAO Innovation Portal, as applicable; and
- e) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.

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