60th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS

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AGENDA ITEM 8:   CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND
                   IMPLEMENTATION

THE ITEMS TO BE FACILITATED FOR THE
DIGITALIZATION OF AIR CARGO INDUSTRY

(Presented by International Air Transport Association)

SUMMARY

This paper briefs the needs and proposed solution for digitalization in air cargo transportation. IATA calls States to support the IATA Digital Cargo Roadmap, which is "Effective 1 January 2026, ONE Record (as defined in the Recommended Practice 1690) is the preferred IATA standard for data sharing among all air cargo stakeholders, including but not limited to freight forwarders, carriers, and ground handling agents.". IATA is asking DGCA to urge States to support the implementation of ONE Record and foster a proactive approach towards digitalization of air cargo industry.

THE ITEMS TO BE FACILITATED FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF
AIR CARGO INDUSTRY

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   As stated in Annex 9, Contracting States should, to the greatest extent possible, remove any requirement to manually produce supporting documents and should establish procedures whereby they can be produced by electronic means. However, At the end the year 2020, the e-AWB adoption rate was roughly around 75%, paper document pouch still predominant (vs. digital pouch) and most of the booking were done through a non-digital channel.

1.2   The digitalization of the air cargo industry is driven by the increasing operational and regulatory needs to share and manage end-to-end shipment information at piece level as well as the need to have a better visibility and transparency on this information.

1.3   Multi modal shipments, use of IoT data, digital accompanying documents, machine learning and big data are topics that have raised interest in the industry and among regulatory bodies and that can only be addressed with modern data sharing standards.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   The concurrent coexistence and usage of different legacy standards and proprietary solutions, creates challenges that prevent the full adoption of digital processes in the air cargo industry:

     a) Confusion between the different standards

     b) Incompatibilities between systems

     c) Truncated messages and loss of information

2.2   These challenges create operational discrepancies that could lead to safety issues (e.g., DG shipment information missing) or compliance issues (e.g., customs penalties).

2.3   To avoid a situation where the industry faces increasing integration costs and effort, there is a need to adopt a standard that will facilitate transparent and plug and play connectivity between all end-to-end supply chain stakeholders.

2.4   ONE Record is a standard for sharing any relevant data in the air cargo industry and creates a single record view of the shipment with all the linked attributes or events. This standard defines a common data model for the data that is shared via standardized and secured web API.

2.5   After industry readiness analysis and discussions among the industry working groups experts, the below proposal has been raised for consideration: "Effective 1 January 2026, ONE Record (as defined in the Recommended Practice 1690) is the preferred IATA standard for data sharing among all air cargo stakeholders, including but not limited to freight forwarders, carriers, and ground handling agents.".

2.6   ONE Record aims at transforming the air logistics business to an extent that couldn't be achieved with legacy standards. It can bring the following benefits:

     (a) Data quality and control

     (b) Visibility and transparency (including audit trails)

(c) Digital foundations/infrastructure for true digital cargo

(d) Welcome a new generation with current technologies

3.   ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1   The Conference is invited to: Encourage all states in ICAO APAC region to consider the IATA Digital Cargo Roadmap and ONE Record standard as one of the options to support the digitalization in air cargo transportation in the region;

> a) Note the information from the paper;
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> b) The DGCA to urge all states in ICAO APAC region to support the IATA Digital Cargo Roadmap and implement ONE Record standard in the region; and
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> c) Discuss any other relevant matters as appropriate.

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