

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7 – 11 September 2026*

AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION

**DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) ANNEX 9 — *FACILITATION***

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This Information Paper highlights recent developments in the ICAO Facilitation Programme pertaining to Annex 9 – *Facilitation* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*. The Paper focuses on the Fourteenth Meeting of the Facilitation Panel, updated guidance materials to assist Member States, and decisions from the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly relating to Facilitation, including the adoption of Facilitation-related Resolutions.

DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) ANNEX 9 — FACILITATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The work of ICAO in the field of Facilitation is undertaken within three separate but interrelated programmes, Annex 9, the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy and the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) with the main objective to facilitate efficient management of border control processes to expedite clearance of aircraft, passengers, crew and cargo in line with relevant articles of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention).

1.2 This Paper highlights recent developments in the ICAO Facilitation Programme pertaining to Annex 9. Annex 9 is based on 10 Articles of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* which require Member States to comply with laws governing the inspection of aircraft, cargo and passengers by authorities concerned with customs, immigration, agriculture and public health to minimize operational delays. As the means of carrying out this mandate, the Facilitation regulatory framework builds on Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as maintained in Annex 9, designed to help States achieve maximum efficiency in their border clearance operations.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Forty-Second Session of the ICAO Assembly (A42), held from 23 September to 3 October 2025, considered facilitation-related matters under Agenda Item 12 — Facilitation Programmes. Discussions under this agenda were organized into 7 thematic batches covering air transport facilitation strategic matters: Annex 9; ICAO TRIP Strategy and ICAO PKD; accessibility in international civil aviation; assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families (AAAVF); oversight and capacity building in facilitation; and trafficking in persons and irregular migration. The Assembly referred several actions contained in some working papers to the ICAO Council, with the involvement of relevant technical bodies for further study and a proposed way forward.

2.2 A42 adopted a series of Resolutions related to Facilitation, namely: A42-13: *Strategy on disaster risk reduction and response mechanism in aviation*; A42-14: *Accessibility in international civil aviation*; A42-15: *Assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families*; A42-16: *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking*; and A42-17: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation*. The Assembly also endorsed the Annex 9-related priorities for the 2026–2028 triennium that includes a consolidation of its work, examining of issues relating to non-compliance with Annex 9 SARPs, the development of strategies to assist States in implementing the provisions of Annex 9, engagement with advances in technologies pertaining to the work of the Facilitation Programme, and the preparation of responses to new and emerging facilitation related issues.

2.3 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Facilitation Panel (FALP/14), convened from 20 to 24 April 2026, brought together a broad and representative participation from 72 Member States and 18 international organizations. The Panel considered proposed amendments to Annex 9, addressing, *inter alia*, Digital Travel Credentials, Crew identification, Crew treatment, Wildlife trafficking and Passenger Data systems. The Panel also considered the relevant Facilitation-related actions that A42 referred to the Council with the involvement of relevant technical bodies for further study and a proposed way forward. The Report of FALP/14 will be presented to the Air Transport Committee during its 239th session (fall 2026), for its consideration.

2.4 To assist Member States in implementing the provisions of Annex 9, relating to Passenger Data Systems, ICAO developed the Second Edition of Doc 9944, *Guidelines on Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data*, which will be published soon. Furthermore, to assist Member States develop capacity, ICAO developed and published a specialized training course titled “Managing Air Transport Facilitation” that provides comprehensive knowledge of the provisions of Annex 9 as well as tools to manage Facilitation programme and related oversight activities to facilitate compliance with Annex 9 provisions. Additionally, an iPack on “Implementing the ICAO TRIP Strategy Roadmap” is under development.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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