



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
MIDDLE EAST OFFICE**

**THE SEVENTH WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE (ATCONF/7)
PREPARATORY WEBINAR**

(Virtual, Tuesday, 30 June 2026)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

I. GENERAL

1.1 Place and Duration

1.1.1 The Preparatory Webinar for MID States in advance of the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATCONF/7) was successfully held virtually, on 30 June 2026, via Microsoft Teams.

1.2 Attendance

1.2.1 The Webinar was attended by a total of 34 participants from 11 States (Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen), and 3 International Organizations (Airport Council International (ACI), Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and International Air Transport Association (IATA)). The list of participants is included in the **Attachment**.

1.3 Opening

1.3.1 Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, Director, Air Transport Bureau (ATB), ICAO HQ and Officer-In-Charge of the ICAO MID Regional Office, opened the Webinar; he welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation.

1.4 Officers and Secretariat

1.4.1 The Webinar was supported by the following ICAO Staff:

- Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, D/ATB and OIC ICAO MID;
- Mr. Mohamed Smaoui, DRD ICAO MID;
- Mr. Peter Omoarebun Alawani, Chief, Economic Regulatory Framework Section (ERF), ATB;
- Ms. Sijia Chen, Air Transport Officer (Infrastructure Management), ERF, ATB
- Ms. Rosida Binti Ismail, Air Transport Officer (Economic Policy), ERF, ATB
- Ms. Manal Wissa, Programme Analysis Associate, ICAO MID

II. OBJECTIVE

2.1 The main objectives of the Webinar are to:

- brief States on ATConf/7 objectives, structure, and expected deliverables;
- discuss regional priorities, challenges and opportunities;
- outline preparatory requirements and timelines; and
- facilitate coordination for effective representation during the Conference.

III. SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Mr. Rahma delivered a presentation (available on the ICAO MID website) highlighting the following:

- ATConf/7 will be held at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada, from 16 to 20 November 2026. The last of such Conference (the Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6)) took place in 2013. The outcomes of the ATConf/7 will define the economic and regulatory foundations of civil aviation in the next decade.
- The Worldwide Air Transport Conference is ICAO's premier policy and decision-making forum for international air transport. It is where Member States, international organizations, industry and other stakeholders come together to examine major developments in air transport, and to determine the measures needed to improve the economic regulatory environment and support the resilience and sustainable growth of international air transport.
- While the six previous Air Transport Conferences addressed the priorities and challenges of their respective periods, ATConf/7 provides an opportunity to consider how the aviation sector should respond to emerging and increasingly significant developments, including the lessons of the global pandemic, accelerating digitalization, the imperative of decarbonization and evolving workforce requirements.
- The theme of ATConf/7 is: "*Air Transport: Powering Global Connectivity, Economic Development and Resilience in a Dynamic World.*" This theme is not just a slogan, it is a call to action. Aviation is a development engine, it creates jobs, enables trade, connects communities, and drives economic growth across every region of the world. Increasingly, States are elevating aviation within national development frameworks, acknowledging its cross-cutting contribution to economic development, social inclusion, and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Under this overarching theme, ATConf/7 has six core objectives:
 - ➔ to advance economic regulatory frameworks to adapt to evolving market trends and technologies by leveraging data;
 - ➔ to enhance industry resilience by addressing workforce, supply chain, market access, emergency response gaps, and consumer protection;
 - ➔ to mobilize blended financing to support civil aviation infrastructure;
 - ➔ to shape economic policy foundations for innovation and emerging technologies;

- ➔ to strengthen institutional and human capacity; and
- ➔ to enable sustainable and inclusive growth in air transport.
- The content of the ATConf/7 Agenda:
 - ✓ **Agenda Item 1:** Overview of Developments in the Field of Air Transport.
 - ✓ **Agenda Item 2:** Fostering Aviation Growth and Air Connectivity through Investments in Infrastructure, Human Capital and Partnerships.
 - ✓ **Agenda Item 3:** Strengthening Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks
 - ✓ **Agenda Item 4:** Emerging Technologies, New Business Models and Other Associated Issues.
- Regarding the format of the Conference, it was highlighted that it was designed to encourage interaction and genuine dialogue. Each day features plenary sessions with thematic interactive discussions structured to elicit concrete positions and forge consensus. Each day, from day one to day four will focus on a specific agenda item. Discussions under each agenda item will begin with presentations by expert stakeholders or industry leaders, or with moderated round-table discussions, to provide a strategic overview of the issues, emerging trends, and practical experiences relevant to the agenda. These introductory sessions will serve to frame subsequent deliberations among participants. Day five will serve as the culmination, featuring the approval of the ATConf/7 draft report, the closing ceremony, and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, which represents the collective political commitment of Member States.
- It was underlined that, in order to support an efficient and well-focused Conference with deliberations that yield clear and actionable outcomes, Member States and international organizations are encouraged to streamline the submission of working papers, through co-sponsorship and regional groupings.
- The State letter inviting States and international organizations to ATConf/7 was issued on 4 May 2026. Detailed information regarding the Conference arrangements, agenda and registration is included in the State letter (SC 7/1 – 26/39 refers).
- The ICAO Secretariat Working Papers will be published by **1 August 2026**. These papers will be available on the ATConf/7 website and will provide the analytical foundation for each agenda item.
- The deadline for submission of Working Papers by Member States is **25 September 2026**. Early submission is strongly encouraged, which allows for better preparation and more substantive discussion at the Conference.
- Working Papers from international organizations are due by **9 October 2026**, with Information Papers due by **15 October 2026**.
- Online registration is already available; States and international organizations are invited to ensure that their representatives complete the online registration and provide credentials, no later than **20 October 2026**.

3.2 Mr. Rahma informed the participants that the ICAO Extraordinary General Assembly will take place back-to-back with the ATConf/7 on 19-20 November 2026.

3.3 The participant from Yemen recalled the Working Paper presented by Bahrain on behalf of the Arab States during the ATConf/6 and reiterated the request for ICAO to develop a dedicated Annex for Air Transport.

IV. CLOSING

4.1 In closing, Mr. Rahma thanked the participants for their presence and encouraged them to register to the ATConf/7 as soon as possible, and to coordinate, under the umbrella of Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) or ICAO MID Regional Office, the submission of joint Working Papers in a timely manner.

4.2 The participants thanked ICAO for organizing such a fruitful Webinar.

ATCONF/7 Preparatory Webinar
(30 June 2026, from 11:00 to 13:00 UTC)

List of Participants

ID	State/Organization	Name	Title
1	Iraq	Hassan Ali	Senior translator
2	Jordan	Faten A. Banat	Director of Economic Regulatory Directorate
3	Jordan	Bayan AbuGhoush	Legal Counsel
4	Jordan	Rania Qammaz	
5	Kuwait	Shoug Alkoot	Head of Organization Section
6	Lebanon	Carl Rizk	
7	Morocco	Ihssane CHAKIR	Head of Strategic and Economic Studies Unit
8	Oman	Hatem Al Alawi	A/Director of Economic Regulation
9	Oman	Khalid Al Hasani	Passenger Rights
10	Oman	Abeer Al-Farsi	Economic Analyst
11	Oman	Ayesha saif Al Nadhairi	Muscat -Al Seeb
12	Oman	Thuraya Al Busaidi	Economic Regulation Department/CAA
13	Qatar	Sara Darwish	In charge of agreement and international relations section
14	Qatar	Carlos Bonilla	Consultant Agreements and International Relations
15	Qatar	Amira Warsama	Third International Relations Researcher
16	Saudi Arabia	Nada S. Darmeeh	Senior Specialist
17	Saudi Arabia	Abdulelah Ali A Al mushtawi	Analyst, Air Carriers Affairs
18	Saudi Arabia	Azam Fahad	
19	Sudan	Wegdan	Head of Traffic rights permissions and clearnces
20	Syria	Abdulwahab Tfankji	Deputy Director of Air Transport
21	Yemen	Amer Anwer Mahmood	Director General Of Air Transport
22	ACI	Nathalie Herbelles	VP Industry Affairs and Sustainability
23	ACI	Slava Cheglatonyev	Sr. Director, Economic Policy and Airport Business ACI
24	ACI	Anna Tormen	Assistant Manager Industry Affairs
25	CANSO	Eduardo Garcia	Senior manager Future Skies
26	IATA	Iman El Asady	External Affairs Manager Middle East North Africa
27	IATA	Rima Tayyah	Regional Director Regional Director External Affairs MENA
28	IATA	Rose Alost	Senior Manager Aviation Charges
29	ICAO	Mohamed Khalifa Rahma	Director ATB HQ - Officer in Charge MID Office
30	ICAO	Mohamed Smaoui	Deputy Regional Director - MID Office
31	ICAO	Manal Wissa	Programme Analysis Associate - MID Office
32	ICAO	Alawani, Omoarebun Peter	Chief, Economic Regulatory Framework Section -HQ
33	ICAO	Rosida Ismail	Air Transport Officer (Economy Officer) - HQ
34	ICAO	Sijia Chen	Air Transport Officer - HQ

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