



WORKING PAPER

FOURTEENTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, Canada, 26 August to 6 September 2024

- Agenda Item 4: Hyper-connectivity of air navigation system**
4.2: Cybersecurity and information system resilience

**CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION CYBERSECURITY
COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT GROUP**

(Presented by Colombia)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the aviation sector, cybersecurity is crucial to ensuring the safety and security of global air transport. The spread of digital systems and interconnected networks has vastly expanded exposure to cyber threats in all fields including air traffic management, navigation, communications, on-board control systems, the supply chain, aerodromes and travellers' personal data. The vulnerability of these systems to cyberattack can have major consequences not just for the safety of flight and the critical infrastructure supporting air operations around the world, but also for the privacy of airlines, passengers and other stakeholders. The aggravating factor in this type of threat is that it emanates from cyberspace, defined as a virtual environment created using IT and digital media that has no borders or directly applicable laws and regulations. Threats can arise in any place at any time, and can spread with the same speed as real data and communications.

ICAO is aware of this situation and recognizes that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility that calls for effective international collaboration. It is essential for there to be real-time response and cooperation on IT issues in addressing the kinds of cyberthreats that cut across national borders, and Member States must take a coordinated approach in sharing information, best practices and technical resources.

The creation of an international coordination group for cybersecurity under ICAO leadership is essential to effectively address cyberthreats to civil aviation because it would facilitate cooperation, information sharing and the harmonization of good practices and responses.

Action: The Conference is invited to:

- a) recommend that ICAO develop guidance for the creation of an international coordination group for cybersecurity in civil aviation; and
- b) urge ICAO to create and lead a coordination group of Member States to address cybersecurity in civil aviation.

¹ Spanish version provided by Colombia.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy recognizes the increasing dependency on IT systems and the importance of ensuring the integrity, confidentiality and availability of information for the safe development of the sector. Cyberthreats to civil aviation are constantly evolving, and jeopardize the safety and continuity of operations. Threats can be motivated by political, financial, terrorist or other objectives. In response to this threat landscape, a reference framework has been established that is founded on seven pillars: international cooperation; governance; effective laws and regulations; cybersecurity policies; information sharing; incident management and emergency planning; capacity building and training; and cybersecurity culture.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The speed at which threats evolve in cyberspace compared to the response time and capacity of States puts our system at a disadvantage. This is why we propose that a standing coordination and information group be created in the sector which would put the benefits of technology at the service of civil aviation. A good foundation for the group would be a permanent online chat forum where officials in each State can share information that they deem relevant regarding regional civil aviation cyberthreats, as well as best practices for dealing with each specific case.

2.2 ICAO should offer guidance for the creation of the group of Member States for addressing cybersecurity matters with the common goal of forming a united global front against cyberthreats and offering an effective coordinated response founded on collaborative efforts.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Conference is invited to approve the following recommendation:

Recommendation 4.2/x – Creation of an international coordination and management group for cybersecurity in civil aviation

That ICAO establish guidance, and create and lead a coordination group of Member States to address cybersecurity in civil aviation.

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