



WORKING PAPER

**SEVENTH WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE
(ATCONF/7)**

Montréal, HQ, 16 to 20 November 2026

Agenda Item 3: Strengthening regulatory and institutional frameworks

3.3: Strengthening emergency planning mechanism and consumer protection for a resilient aviation system

**ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION
FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE AIR TRANSPORT DURING
GEOPOLITICAL CRISES**

(Presented by Oman)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent geopolitical and security developments unveiled the direct impact of crises on the continuity and efficiency of international air transport. Airspace closures and operational restrictions on certain routes have resulted in the re-routing of a large number of international flights, triggering hikes in fuel consumption, operating costs and insurance premiums, as well as a visible impact on the efficiency of international air connectivity networks and global supply chains.

Such developments also demonstrated the importance of strengthening governance and international coordination to support the continuity of air transport services during crises, and the value of developing more effective mechanisms for information-sharing and cooperation among States, civil aviation authorities, airlines and relevant international organizations.

Oman proposes that consideration be given to developing an international framework that strengthens governance, institutional coordination and international cooperation to support the continuity of international air transport services and mitigate the operational and economic impacts arising from geopolitical crises, thereby contributing to the resilience of global air transport and its ability to address future challenges.

Action: The conference is invited to:

- a) acknowledge the importance of governance and international coordination in supporting international air transport continuity during geopolitical crises and large-scale operational disruptions;
- b) encourage States, international organizations and aviation stakeholders to strengthen mechanisms for cooperation and information-sharing in order to address challenges threatening the continuity of international air services;
- c) support the exchange of best practices and experience related to managing air transport continuity during crises and enhancing the resilience of international air transport networks;
- d) promote the study of operational and economic impacts arising from large-scale flight rerouting, including effects on fuel consumption, operational costs, insurance and international air connectivity; and
- e) invite the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to examine ways of strengthening governance and international coordination so as to support air transport continuity during geopolitical crises and large-scale operational disruptions.

¹ Arabic version provided by Oman

Strategic Goal:	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal: <i>The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All.</i>
Financial implications:	This paper has no direct financial implications at present.
References:	<i>Convention on International Civil Aviation</i> (Chicago Convention) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Strategic Plan <i>Manual on the Regulation of International Air Transport</i> (Doc 9626) ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization <i>Policy and Guidance Material on the Economic Regulation of International Air Transport</i> (Doc 9587)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 International air transport is facing increasing challenges as a result of geopolitical and security developments that may directly affect the continuity of international air services and the efficiency of global air transport networks. Recent crises have shown that the closing or restricting the use of airspace in certain regions can lead to wide-ranging operational and economic impacts extending far beyond the affected area, and impacting airlines, airports, air connectivity hubs and global supply chains. In light of the growing dependence of the global economy on air transport, the importance of strengthening governance and international coordination to support the continuity of international air services and ensure the sector's ability to adapt to evolving geopolitical challenges is becoming increasingly evident.

2. CHALLENGES FACING AIR TRANSPORT CONTINUITY DURING GEOPOLITICAL CRISES

2.1 Recent geopolitical crises have brought to light a number of challenges that directly impact international air transport, most notably:

- a) re-routing flights to longer and more complex routes, as a result of the closure or restriction of certain airspaces;
- b) higher fuel consumption and operational costs for airlines;
- c) increased insurance premiums and commercial risks associated with operating flights in certain areas;
- d) compromised efficiency of international air connectivity networks, as a result of disruption to operation schedules and reduced network resilience;
- e) repercussions on air cargo traffic and global supply chains; and
- f) crises implications extending to air connectivity hubs and international air transport networks, thus jeopardizing continuity of air services and efficiency of the global air transport network.

3. GOVERNANCE AS A TOOL FOR ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE AND CONTINUITY OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT

3.1 Governance is indeed fundamental for enhancing the ability of air transport to address geopolitical challenges and ensuring the continuity of international air services during crises.

3.2 Effective governance contributes to:

- a) supporting coordinated and timely decision-making;
- b) strengthening cooperation among States, civil aviation authorities, international organizations and airlines;
- c) improving the exchange of information on developments affecting air transport operations;
- d) enhancing risk management and business continuity planning; and
- e) supporting the stability of international air transport networks and reducing economic and operational impacts of crises.

4. **AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE AND CONTINUITY OF AIR TRANSPORT DURING GEOPOLITICAL CRISES**

4.1 In light of the evolving challenges facing international air transport as a result of geopolitical and security developments, there is a need to strengthen international cooperation and develop a more integrated approach to support the continuity of international air services and mitigate the operational and economic impacts arising from crises.

4.2 The proposed framework is based on three interrelated pillars:

- a) enhancing governance and international coordination: through supporting mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among States, civil aviation authorities, international organizations and relevant stakeholders, thereby improving information-sharing, strengthening risk management and supporting timely decision-making during crises;
- b) enabling the continuity of international air transport services: through strengthening cooperation among States so as to maintain the continuity of international air services and reduce the effects of operational disruptions on passenger and air cargo traffic, thereby helping to maintain international air connectivity and support global supply chains and trade; and
- c) enhancing operational and economic resilience: through examining and addressing the operational and economic impacts arising from geopolitical crises, including increased fuel consumption and higher operation and insurance costs, the impact of disruptions on the efficiency of air transport networks and international connectivity hubs, and efforts to minimize the wider consequences of crises on global air transport.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 Oman recommends the following:

- a) strengthening governance and international coordination mechanisms to support the continuity of air transport services during geopolitical crises;
- b) developing effective mechanisms for information-sharing among States and relevant stakeholders to support rapid response and decision-making;
- c) supporting the exchange of best practices and experience related to managing air transport continuity;
- d) studying the operational and economic impacts arising from large-scale flight re-routing and identifying ways to mitigate them;
- e) better understanding the challenges facing international air connectivity hubs, as a result of geopolitical crises and their impacts on global air transport networks;

- f) promoting international cooperation with a view to developing policies and procedures that support the resilience and sustainability of international air transport; and
- g) inviting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to examine ways of strengthening governance and international coordination in order to support air transport continuity during large-scale geopolitical crises.

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