



WORKING PAPER

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

Montréal, HQ, 16 to 20 November 2026

Agenda Item 3: Strengthening regulatory and institutional frameworks
3.1: Strengthening regulatory oversight and evolving institutional frameworks

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT
TRAINING TRACK – IATTT**

(Presented by Oman on behalf of the
Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO))²

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper, presented by Oman on behalf of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), proposes the establishment of a specialized International Air Transport Training Track (IATTT) under the umbrella of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), with the aim of developing national competencies in fields related to international air transport.

The proposal is based on the urgent need to harmonize concepts and professional practices among Member States, reduce the knowledge and skills gap, in light of the accelerating developments in the sector, complexity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations and the increase in operational and regulatory aspects relating to traffic rights and flight permits.

The paper also builds on ICAO's successful institutional approach in other areas, particularly capacity-building and standardized training in the fields of safety and navigation in civil aviation. It proposes the establishment of a similar incremental international training programme in the field of air transport, including multiple professional levels and unified accreditation certificates that would assist Member States in developing specialized national experts capable of managing international air transport files efficiently and professionally, thereby strengthening international cooperation and standardizing best practices in this vital field.

The paper also proposes that ICAO establish a system for the accreditation of air transport instructors in accordance with approved international standards, thereby ensuring the quality and sustainability of training programmes and contributing to the creation of a pool of experts and specialized instructors in this field.

Action: The action by the conference is detailed in paragraph 4.2.

*Strategic
Goal:*

This working paper relates to the following Strategic Goals: Strategic Goals: *The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All* and *Aviation Is Environmentally Sustainable*.

¹ Arabic version provided by Oman.

² Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

<i>Financial implications:</i>	No direct financial impact.
<i>References:</i>	• Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) • ICAO Doc 9626 • ICAO TASA • ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS • ICAO GAT Programme • ICAO NCLB Initiative

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The global air transport sector is facing rapid changes that include regulatory developments, new aviation technologies and modern business models, as well as intertwined economic, operational and regulatory aspects. In this complex environment, there is an urgent need to develop the capacities of air transport officers in Member States so as to ensure that national authorities are able to deal efficiently with current and future challenges, as the demand for highly competent air transport officers who possess a deep understanding of the general legislative, economic and operational concepts of air transport.

1.2 Despite the existence of various training programmes offered by training centres affiliated with international bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), there is still no integrated international training track specifically designed for air transport officers covering essential subjects such as international air law, the management of bilateral and multilateral agreements, negotiation techniques for air services agreements, air traffic rights, mechanisms for issuing operating permits and approving airline schedules, airline business models, air transport policies, air transport market mechanisms, competition, passenger and air cargo protection, and the regulatory and economic aspects of air transport, among other areas.

1.3 Accordingly, this paper proposes the establishment of a standard international training track under the umbrella of ICAO to strengthen the capacities of the personnel working in air transport departments of civil aviation authorities and to develop highly competent international executives in Member States.

2. CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE TRAINING OF AIR TRANSPORT OFFICERS

2.1 Many civil aviation authorities face clear challenges relating to the training of air transport officers, including:

- the need to harmonize professional practices relating to the management of air transport matters among Member States;
- the limited availability of specialized programmes in the economic and regulatory affairs of air transport;
- high staff turnover, resulting in the loss of accumulated expertise;
- the need to strengthen international negotiation skills relating to air traffic rights;

- disparities in levels of expertise among States, which lead to differences in the quality of negotiations and the management of international obligations;
- limited knowledge relating to air transport economics and its impact on decision-making;
- rapid developments in areas such as airline ownership and control, commercial partnerships, open skies, fair competition, and passenger and air cargo protection;
- the need for a systematic understanding of flight permit mechanisms, charges and regulations relevant to international operations; and
- the widening knowledge gap between developed States and less experienced countries, which is inconsistent with ICAO's objective of the *No Country Left Behind* strategic goal.

2.2 These circumstances and the knowledge gap make it necessary to establish a standardized training track that contributes to harmonizing concepts and refining the skills of officials responsible for decision-making in a systematic and integrated manner.

3. **OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING TRACK FOR AIR TRANSPORT OFFICERS**

3.1 Oman proposes, through this paper, the establishment of a specialized international training track by ICAO, focusing on:

- a) Building the institutional capacities of air transport departments of civil aviation authorities in Member States;
- b) Strengthening understanding of international air law and the principles of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention);
- c) Developing negotiation skills relating to air services agreements;
- d) Enhancing the competencies of officers in matters relating to air transport economics;
- e) Harmonizing standards relating to the procedures for issuing overflight and landing permits;
- f) Improving the capabilities of officers in managing fair competition among airlines;
- g) Supporting the development of professional experts capable of managing air transport matters in Member States; and
- h) Accrediting specialized air transport instructors to ensure the quality and sustainability of training.

4. **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The establishment of a specialized International Air Transport Training Track (IATTT) would contribute to raising professional competency levels and strengthening the development of highly competent officers capable of managing the challenges of air transport matters and related economic regulations in a rapidly evolving sector. It would also support the *No Country Left Behind* principle in order to build a more coordinated, sustainable, balanced and competitive global air transport system.

4.2 Accordingly, Oman recommends that the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference:

- a) Take note of Oman's proposal to establish an IATTT under the supervision of ICAO;
- b) Support the principle of developing a standard and incremental international training programme covering subjects relating to air law, air transport economics, negotiation of air services agreements, fair competition, flight permit mechanisms, and passenger and air cargo protection;
- c) Prepare a detailed study on mechanisms for implementing the proposed programme and developing a comprehensive concept for the training track for air transport officers in Member States, including training programmes and levels, the development of standardized training curricula, qualification and training levels, professional accreditation mechanisms, the issuance of internationally recognized certificates, accreditation requirements, possible training partnerships, and a timetable for presenting the study to the relevant ICAO bodies; and
- d) Encourage the Secretariat to study the development of an international framework for the accreditation of air transport instructors, in cooperation with Member States, specialized regional organizations and accredited training centres.

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