



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 18: Capacity Development and Implementation Support – Policy and Activities

**ENHANCING GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY
THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

(Presented by Canada and co-sponsored by the United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper highlights the critical role of technical cooperation in advancing the strategic goals outlined in ICAO's Strategic Plan, 2026-2025.

Recalling and building on Canada and New Zealand's Working Paper at the 40th Session of the Assembly (A40-WP/129), this Working Paper encourages the enhancement of aviation safety and security frameworks, regulatory oversight, and operational competencies in partner States through technical cooperation. We encourage all Member States to adopt similar approaches to those outlined in this Working Paper and collaborate on innovative solutions to further strengthen global aviation safety and security.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Encourage Member States to align their contributions and requests for assistance with ICAO's strategic objectives and their own priorities, to support compliance with the Chicago Convention and enhance aviation safety and security;
- b) Contribute and collaborate with ICAO and its Regional Offices to support technical cooperation activities; and
- c) Encourage Member States to coordinate efforts to expand the reach and impact of capacity-building initiatives globally, improve technical coordination and reduce duplication of efforts and ensure needs-based implementation tailored to each recipient State's operational context and resource availability.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goals: <i>Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i> and <i>No Country Left Behind</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No financial implications anticipated.
<i>References:</i>	ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050 Doc 10118, <i>Global Aviation Security Plan</i> Doc 10004, <i>2023-2025 Global Aviation Safety Plan</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Several ICAO Member States are committed to supporting global aviation safety and security by addressing capacity challenges in States with gaps in resources or expertise. In alignment with ICAO's strategic goals, Member States engage in initiatives designed to strengthen aviation safety and security frameworks through financial contributions, technical assistance, and collaborative partnerships. These efforts aim to mitigate risks to international civil aviation and advance global safety and security outcomes.

1.2 Considering globally diminishing resources and increasing threats, a more structured and coordinated approach to technical cooperation is critical. Strengthening mechanisms that align efforts among ICAO, Member States, and regional entities will help avoid duplication, optimize resources, and increase the sustainability and effectiveness of aviation safety and security technical cooperation initiatives.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

2.1 Key Areas of Focus

2.1.1 Effective technical cooperation requires targeted interventions in priority areas that strengthen foundational aviation safety and security systems. States are encouraged to focus their contributions and expertise to enhance regulatory frameworks and compliance with Standards, for example, by:

- a) Strengthening State-level aviation safety and security oversight and governance;
- b) Building local expertise through training, knowledge transfer and mentorship; and
- c) Supporting the implementation of advanced technologies and risk-based measures.

2.1.2 These areas represent shared global challenges where technical assistance, including through peer-to-peer collaboration and resource sharing, can yield broad, long-term benefits.

2.2 Collaborative Approaches

2.2.1 To better support Member States with varying levels of infrastructure and operational capacity, technical cooperation should be tailored and context-specific, informed by comprehensive needs assessments, to be developed and conducted by States and ICAO, and in collaboration with Recipient States. This ensures that cooperation activities are both impactful and sustainable.

- a) States can collaborate with other States, or with ICAO and its Regional Offices to co-develop and deliver workshops and training activities.
- b) Joint procurement or co-development of specialized tools can enhance operational readiness and allow for scalable solutions across multiple regions.
- c) Encouraging States to focus their technical cooperation in areas where they have expertise helps ensure the effective use of global resources and reduces duplication of efforts.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH ICAO INITIATIVES

3.1 Technical cooperation activities described in this paper support and align with ICAO's broader goals and initiatives:

- a) **ICAO Strategic Plan, 2026-2050:** Advancing all the strategic goals outlined in the Plan.
- b) **No Country Left Behind (NCLB):** Fostering equitable access to resources and closing capacity gaps among Member States.
- c) **GASeP Priority Six – Increase Cooperation and Support:** Facilitating the sharing of knowledge, tools, and expertise on aviation security measures.
- d) **GASP Goals 1 and 2:** To achieve a continuous reduction of operational safety risks, and for States to increase collaboration at the regional level to enhance safety.

3.2 A more coordinated technical cooperation approach, facilitated by ICAO and implemented regionally, can reduce duplication, better align assistance with State needs, and amplify the impact of finite global resources.

4. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 While significant progress has been made in strengthening global aviation safety and security, many recipient States continue to face persistent challenges related to resource limitations, coordination gaps, and the effective delivery of assistance, particularly in environments with limited infrastructure or operational capacity. These challenges underscore the need for donor States and partners to ensure that technical cooperation is responsive, well-coordinated, and tailored to the specific needs of recipient States.

4.2 Resource limitations, both financial and technical, continue to challenge effective capacity building in many regions. Strategic partnerships with international organizations, industry, and academic institutions can help scale delivery.

- The evolving nature of threats and risks necessitates continuous innovation, including the integration of data-driven risk assessment and new technologies.

4.3 To maximize implementation success, States should conduct comprehensive assessments of needs, risks, and their underlying causes, before deploying assistance. For example, providing quality control training without ensuring access to necessary operational tools (e.g., test kits) can significantly limit effectiveness.

- A globally coordinated approach, with ICAO serving in a facilitative role, can help reduce duplication, align assistance with recipient States needs, and enhance the overall impact and sustainability of technical cooperation activities, whilst respecting the strategic priorities and sovereignty of individual States.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 ICAO Member States have a shared responsibility to contribute to global aviation safety and security. By fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and ensuring that capacity-building efforts are tailored and aligned with ICAO's objectives, we can collectively strengthen international aviation resilience.

5.2 Member States are encouraged to contribute where they can offer unique value, and to collaborate through ICAO mechanisms to harmonize efforts, improve resource efficiency, and build a sustainable, globally coordinated capacity development ecosystem.

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