



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 12: Facilitation Programmes

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AIR OPERATOR
SUPPLY CHAINS

(Presented by the United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar crime that affects an estimated 27.6 million people globally with intersections across all modes of transportation, including the aviation sector. Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators can play an important role in identifying, preventing and mitigating the risks of human trafficking across their supply chains, including operations, services, and products. Building on the 2022 Assembly Resolution A41-16: *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking*, the Assembly is invited to support a Resolution underscoring the importance of Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain and encouraging the continuation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) efforts to assist States in their initiatives to combat human trafficking

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) adopt the resolution found in the Appendix, and to encourage ICAO continued efforts to assist States in their initiatives to combat human trafficking in aviation; and
- b) is urged to encourage industry and other aviation stakeholders to increase efforts to stop human trafficking.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal <i>Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	The activities referred to in this paper should be undertaken subject to the resources available in “Undetermined” and/or from extra budgetary contributions. Other financial implications will vary across Member States.
<i>References:</i>	The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, General Assembly resolution 55/25 ICAO Resolutions A40-15: <i>Accessibility in International Civil Aviation</i> and A41-16: <i>Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking</i> Annex 9 — <i>Facilitation</i> , 17th Edition Circ 362, <i>Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain</i>

	Doc 10171, <i>Manual on a Comprehensive Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in the Aviation Sector</i> Circ 357, <i>Guidelines for Reporting Trafficking in Persons by Flight and Cabin Crew</i> Circ 352, <i>Guidelines for Training Cabin Crew on Identifying and Responding to Trafficking in Persons</i> ICAO Training Tool for Capacity Building of Cabin Crew on Identifying and Responding to Trafficking in Persons G7 2023 Transport Ministerial Declaration Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2023 Transportation Ministerial Statement Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's 2018 International Transport Forum Ministerial Declaration APEC 2017 Transportation Ministerial Statement APEC 2013 Transportation Ministerial Statement
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Human trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is a multibillion-dollar crime that affects an estimated 27.6 million men, women, and children globally,¹ with intersections across all modes of transportation, including the aviation sector.²

1.2 Air operators can play an important role in identifying, preventing, and mitigating the risks of human trafficking across their supply chains, including within their operations, services, and products.

1.3 In the international context, Ministers of Transport have underscored the important role that transportation can have in the fight against human trafficking through the G7 Transport Ministerial Declaration of 2023,³ the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Transportation Ministerial Statements of 2023,⁴ 2017,⁵ and 2013,⁶ and the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's International Transport Forum Ministerial Declaration of 2018.⁷

¹ International Labor Organization and Walk Free Foundation. 2022. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

² According to the Counter-Trafficking Data Collective, a United Nations International Organization for Migration initiative, of the nearly 80 per cent of international human trafficking cases that cross official ports of entry, 20 per cent are by airplane.

³ G7. 2023. "G7 Transport Ministerial Declaration." 19 June 2023. https://g7g20-documents.org/fileadmin/G7G20_documents/2023/G7/Japan/Ministerial%20Meetings/Transport%20Ministers/1%20Ministers%20Language/Transport%20Ministerial%20Declaration_19062023.pdf.

⁴ APEC. 2023. "Chair's Statement of the 11th APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting." 19 May 2023. <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/transportation/2023-transportation-detroit>.

⁵ APEC. 2017. "2017 APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting." 7 October 2017. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Transportation/2017_transport.

⁶ APEC. 2013. "APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting." 5 September 2013. https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Transportation/2013_transport.

⁷ International Transport Forum. 2018. "Ministerial Statement on Transport Safety and Security." 24 May 2018. https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/2018-ministerial-declaration-transport-safety-security_0.pdf.

1.4 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) actively contributes to combatting human trafficking in the aviation sector. ICAO counter-trafficking efforts include two general resolutions,⁸ a comprehensive counter-trafficking strategy,⁹ training guidelines for cabin crew,¹⁰ reporting guidelines for flight and cabin crew,¹¹ and a training programme for cabin crew.¹²

1.5 ICAO counter-trafficking standards emphasize the importance of clear reporting systems, raising public awareness, and a Comprehensive Strategy inclusive of policies for airport and aircraft operators to combat the crime.¹³

1.6 ICAO Circular 362, *Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain*,¹⁴ enhances national counter-trafficking policies and procedural frameworks, equips Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators with guidance and recommendations to inform their development of counter-trafficking policies, and supports due diligence and transparency in supply chain management in line with ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-16, *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking*.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators can play an important role in helping to intercept and combat human trafficking by equipping their organizations with responsible labor recruitment practices and implementing due diligence measures across their operations, including the sourcing of services and products throughout their supply chain.

2.2 To identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for addressing the risks of trafficking in persons in their supply chains, Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators should adopt counter-trafficking policies, an aviation-specific code of conduct, and auditing protocols to undertake meaningful evaluations, assess and mitigate risks, provide remedies, monitor efficacy, raise awareness, and provide training to their employees.

⁸ ICAO. 2019. “Resolutions Adopted by the Assembly: 40th Session.” Provisional Edition. https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a40/Documents/Resolutions/a40_res_prov_en.pdf;

ICAO. 2022. “Resolutions Adopted by the Assembly: 41st Session.” Provisional Edition. https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a41/Documents/Resolutions/a41_res_prov_en.pdf.

⁹ ICAO. 2023. Doc 10171, *Manual on a Comprehensive Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking in the Aviation Sector*, 1st Edition. Montreal, ICAO. https://www.icao.int/Security/FAL/ANNEX9/Documents/10171_cons_en.pdf.

¹⁰ ICAO. 2018. Circ 352, *Guidelines for Training Cabin Crew on Identifying and Responding to Trafficking in Persons*. Montreal, ICAO. <https://www.icao.int/safety/airnavigation/OPS/CabinSafety/Documents/Cir.352.alltext.en.pdf>.

¹¹ ICAO. 2021. Circ 357, *Guidelines for Reporting Trafficking in Persons by Flight and Cabin Crew*. Montreal, ICAO. <https://www.icao.int/safety/airnavigation/OPS/CabinSafety/Documents/Circ.357.EN.pdf>.

¹² ICAO. n.d. “Trafficking in Persons.” ICAO Safety. <https://www.icao.int/safety/airnavigation/OPS/CabinSafety/Pages/Trafficking-in-Persons.aspx>.

¹³ ICAO. 2025. Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, 17th edition. Montreal: ICAO.

¹⁴ ICAO. 2025. Circ 362, *Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain*. Montreal: ICAO. <https://www.icao.int/safety/airnavigation/OPS/CabinSafety/Pages/Trafficking-in-Persons.aspx#Cir362>.

APPENDIX

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION BY THE 42ND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Resolution A42-xx: Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — the importance of combatting human trafficking in air operator supply chains

Whereas the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted in November 2000 by the United Nations General Assembly and entered into force on 25 December 2003, provides an international framework and enjoys ratification by a majority of countries;

Recalling that the 2022 Assembly Resolution A41-16, *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking* acknowledges the importance of Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators adopting policies to help stop human trafficking while enhancing national counter-trafficking policies and procedure frameworks;

Whereas ICAO Circular 362, *Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain* equips Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators with guidance and recommendations to inform their development of policies to ensure due diligence and transparency in supply chain management in line with ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-16, *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking*;

Whereas Standard 8.49 in Amendment 30 to Annex 9 — *Facilitation* encourages Contracting States to take measures to ensure that procedures in place to combat trafficking in persons are based on a Comprehensive Strategy inclusive of counter-trafficking policies;

Whereas adopting ICAO Circular 362, *Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain* inclusive of policies, procedures, raising awareness, and employee training can help Civil Aviation Authorities and air operators stop this crime;

The Assembly:

Urges Member States to give due regard to Circular 362, *Guidelines for Combatting Trafficking in Persons in the Air Operator Supply Chain*, in their implementation of the relevant provisions of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*.

— END —