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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 12: Facilitation Programmes

DEVELOPING TRAVELLER IDENTIFICATION, DIGITAL DOCUMENTS, AND USE OF E-VISA IN KAZAKHSTAN

(Presented by Kazakhstan)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper submits for the consideration of the Assembly the actions taken in developing Traveller Identification, digital documents and the use of E-visa by Kazakhstan.

By hosting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Regional Symposium on the Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) for the first time in 2023, Kazakhstan demonstrated its commitment to enhancing secure and seamless passenger identification processes through innovation, digital transformation, and international collaboration.

Kazakhstan's recent initiatives, including the implementation of digital ID cards via eGov Mobile and the issuance of electronic visas contribute to the strengthening of border control systems, promoting passenger facilitation, and improving travel document interoperability across borders in line with the global ICAO TRIP Strategy.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This information paper relates to Strategic Goal <i>Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible and Reliable Mobility for All</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not determined.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 9303, <i>Machine Readable Travel Documents</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Air transport facilitation plays a vital role in ensuring the efficient and seamless movement of passengers, crew, cargo and aircraft across borders, with Annex 9 — *Facilitation* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation serving as a key framework in this regard.

1.2 The recent global challenges, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted the need for a harmonized and resilient approach to international air transport. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continues to lead global efforts to enhance facilitation through the development of Annex 9, the Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy and the Public Key Directory (PKD), alongside the creation of technical specifications, policies, guidance, capacity-building and partnerships with international organizations.

1.3 Air transport is essential for connecting people, facilitating trade, promoting sustainable socio-economic development and supporting the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Member States are encouraged to actively support ICAO work through voluntary contributions and collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, recognizing also the crucial role of air transport in enabling rapid humanitarian response during major crises.

2. KAZAKHSTAN SUPPORT FOR ICAO TRIP, INTRODUCTION OF THE E-GOV DIGITAL DOCUMENT SERVICE AND E-VISA

2.1 From 6 to 8 December 2023, Kazakhstan hosted a Regional Symposium on TRIP. The event was held under the auspices of ICAO, with the support of the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan, the Civil Aviation Committee and the Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan.

2.2 The event programme featured 10-panel sessions scheduled over 3 days, which were directly related to the 5 key elements of the ICAO TRIP Strategy: Evidence of Identity, Machine-Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Document Issuance Control, Inspection Systems and Tools, and Interoperable Applications.

2.3 The primary focus of the event was aimed at improving passenger mobility through technology and innovation. It should be noted that one of the priority areas of civil aviation development in Kazakhstan is digital transformation.

2.4 The Symposium brought together over 280 participants from 30 countries including Canada, France, Switzerland, Türkiye, Qatar, Singapore, United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Romania, New Zealand, Germany, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Armenia and others. Representatives from key international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Airports Council International (ACI), International Air Transport Association (IATA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and FRONTEX were also in attendance alongside foreign airlines operating in Kazakhstan.

2.5 Kazakhstan was represented by government agencies, including the National Security Committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs, digital government bodies, local airports and domestic airlines. Symposium Agenda Highlights:

- Day 1: ICAO role in Facilitation, National Air Transport Facilitation Programmes and National Identity Management Practices.
- Day 2: ICAO MRTD Standards, Document Issuance and Control, Border Control Technologies and Capacity Building.
- Day 3: Advanced Passenger Information & Data Sharing, Future of Border Management Technologies, and Workshop on new Doc 9303 specifications

2.6 The Regional Symposium on TRIP provided a critical platform for government officials and civil aviation stakeholders to exchange best practices, explore emerging technologies, and strengthen international cooperation in traveller identification and border facilitation.

2.7 Digital document service (eGov Mobile) has been introduced at all airports of Kazakhstan, and passengers on domestic flights have the opportunity to present a digital ID card via the eGov Mobile application to confirm their personal data. (eGov Mobile is a mobile application, which is an updated version of the eGov.kz ecosystem for providing public services to the population of Kazakhstan.

2.8 The application allows access to government services and information without visiting the Central Office and using the Electronic Digital Signature as conveniently as possible by linking it to the PIN code and biometrics of the device.)

2.9 To use a digital ID card at the airport, a user authorized in eGov mobile needs to log in to the “Digital Documents” service and select an ID card from the list. At the airport check-in desk, as well as during the pre-flight inspection, it is necessary to show the screen of the smartphone with the QR code generated in the service.

2.10 The opportunity to use a digital ID card on domestic flights has become available to Kazakhstanis due to joint efforts to integrate the systems of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry, the Civil Aviation Committee, the Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan JSC, airlines and airports of Kazakhstan and National Information Technologies JSC. The digital document service can also be conveniently accessed via mobile banking apps offered by banks in Kazakhstan.

2.11 The electronic visa (for business, tourism and medical treatment) is issued based on a valid invitation from the Kazakhstani side, which is processed through the Migration Service units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan in accordance with established procedures.

2.12 Foreign nationals may enter and exit the territory of Kazakhstan using a valid electronic visa only through the international airport checkpoints of Kazakhstan.

2.13 Electronic visas are available to citizens of 109 countries.

2.14 The electronic visa is issued exclusively to the visa holder and does not extend to accompanying persons. The passport submitted by the visa applicant must meet the following criteria:

- a) It must be authentic and clearly belong to the holder, free from any doubts, extensions, notes, amendments, erasures, corrections, torn or loose pages.
- b) It must contain at least 2 blank pages.

- c) Its validity must expire no earlier than 3 months after the requested visa's expiration date.
- d) It must not have any extensions of validity.

2.15 Hosts are required to notify the migration authorities about foreign nationals staying with them within three working days from their arrival date.

2.16 Furthermore, supporting the ongoing work of ICAO in leading global efforts to standardize and improve air transport facilitation measures through the development of Annex 9, the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, and the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) programmes, as well as through the establishment of technical specifications, policies, guidance material, capacity building and assistance, and collaboration with relevant international organizations, Kazakhstan has signed the Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport in Qatar, on 17 April 2025.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Kazakhstan's effort in hosting the ICAO Regional Symposium on TRIP and implementing advanced digital identification and visa systems highlight its strategic commitment to ICAO's goals of enhancing security, facilitation and the economic development of air transport. These efforts reflect a forward-looking approach to modernizing passenger processing systems and promoting international cooperation in line with ICAO's TRIP Strategy and Annex 9 provisions.

3.2 By embracing digital transformation through innovations such as eGov Mobile ID services and the electronic visa system, Kazakhstan is not only improving the efficiency and security of its border control infrastructure but also setting a strong example for regional and global stakeholders.

3.3 Reinforcing its commitment to international collaboration and best practices, Kazakhstan also signed the Doha Declaration on Facilitation of International Air Transport in Qatar on 17 April 2025. These actions underscore Kazakhstan's role in advancing secure, interoperable and passenger-friendly travel systems, while strengthening the resilience and sustainability of international air transport as a vital enabler of global connectivity and development.

3.4 All these developments together reflect Kazakhstan's strategic focus on leveraging digital solutions to modernize its aviation and border management systems. Complementing these initiatives, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to advancing digital transformation and international cooperation in passenger facilitation. This significantly underscores Kazakhstan's proactive role in aligning with global standards for secure and seamless travel.

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