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WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Aviation Security — Policy

LEVERAGING OMAN'S STRATEGIC LOCATION TO COOPERATE IN PROMOTING GLOBAL CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SYSTEM

(Presented by Oman)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sultanate of Oman has a unique geographical location connecting Asia, Africa and Europe, which makes it an important hub for regional and international air traffic. Such a strategic location can be leveraged to support and strengthen the global civil aviation security system.

Enhanced cooperation among regional and international parties enhances international partners' confidence in the efficiency and professionalism of the global aviation security system, resulting in greater openness and cooperation in the global aviation security, thus contributing to the achievement of ICAO goals related to aviation security.

The Sultanate of Oman can reinforce global aviation security and enhance its own role in shaping international security frameworks through the neutral position it upholds and the strong ties it shares with regional powers and global organizations.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- consider the importance of the geographical location of the Sultanate of Oman on the world map and its effective role in strengthening the global civil aviation security system; and
- leverage Oman's specialized capabilities and expertise in aviation security as well as related best practices, and to encourage States willing to do so to collaborate with Oman in strengthening the global aviation security system.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal <i>Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Implementation of the requirements set out in this paper is subject to the availability of financial and human resources in Member States.

¹ Arabic version provided by Oman

<i>References:</i>	ICAO Global Civil Aviation Security Policies Civil Aviation Strategy ICAO <i>Aviation Security Manual</i> (Doc 8973) Annex 17 – <i>Aviation Security</i> Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) ICAO Strategic Plan 2026–2050: Safe Skies, Sustainable Future
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP), which is a strategic document available to all Member States, industry and ICAO in order to guide their efforts aimed at enhancing aviation security, provides a number of guiding principles, including the *No Country Left Behind* initiative, the effective implementation and compliance with Annex 17, sustainability, cooperation and information sharing, the security culture, human capital, innovation and identifying, understanding and managing risks.

1.2 Implementation of the GASeP guidelines is achieved through States' adherence to them, thereby affirming the ambitious, comprehensive and shared goal of aviation security.

1.3 Global aviation security priorities identified in the GASeP can be achieved through States and industry focusing their efforts on fulfilling them, thereby realizing the ambitious goal of establishing and sustaining a robust global aviation security system focused on full and effective implementation of ICAO aviation security SARPs by all Member States.

1.4 State implementation of the Critical Elements for aviation security oversight, civil aviation security provided for in Annex 17 – *Aviation Security* and security-related provisions in Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, as well as related items in the Chicago Convention and recommended practices, as well as associated procedures, guidance material and security-related practices, can all be achieved through focusing on areas of global priority.

2. OMAN'S LOCATION ON THE WORLD MAP

2.1 Oman's strategic location, close to areas of security instability, makes it an ideal base for cooperation in the critical field of aviation security, where Oman plays a vital role in regional and international airspace management, as well as the safety and security of global air travel. That geographical advantage, in addition to the neutrality of the Sultanate, enabled Oman to become a hub for air travel, ensuring effective connectivity for all countries of the world and promoting greater openness and cooperation in the framework of global aviation security, thereby contributing to achieving ICAO aviation security goals.

2.2 Thanks to its unique geographical location, Oman is a key partner in promoting aviation security, being a hub for air traffic, regional security training, and intelligence sharing, enabling it to contribute significantly and effectively to cooperation in the domain of aviation security, both regionally and internationally.

2.3 Regarding aviation security, Oman plays a vital role in regional and international efforts and is committed to maintaining high security standards across its airspace, airports and airline operations in accordance with national and international requirements. This is reflected in its investment in airport infrastructure, modern technologies, human resources, and cooperation with international organizations such

as, inter alia, ICAO, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), International Air Transport Association (IATA), and European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).

3. COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL AVIATION SECURITY

3.1 Oman is actively involved in efforts aimed at strengthening security infrastructure in its airports and across its airspace so as to comply with national and international standards, particularly through cooperation with organizations such as the ICAO, as well as local and regional partners, on issues such as counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and national building-capacity in the civil aviation sector.

3.2 Oman's proactive approach to civil aviation security includes training all personnel involved in, or responsible for, implementing various aspects of the National Civil Aviation Security Program (NCASP), including cyber security and securing critical civil aviation operations through relying on advanced surveillance systems, all of which contribute to regional and international aviation security.

3.3 International cooperation ensures that civil aviation operations are managed effectively, adequately and safely, thereby enhancing security, reliability and public reputation of civil aviation across the region.

3.4 Developing initiatives that strengthen the global aviation security system in terms of ensuring safe air connectivity among continents and providing safe and efficient transit services for aircraft, will, in turn, contribute to supporting the stability of global air transport, and establishing a regional platform for training and capacity-building by offering ICAO training courses for aviation security personnel, taking advantage of regional and international accessibility of Oman. It will also enhance international cooperation through hosting regional exercises and simulations, leveraging its location, with a view to coordinating regional exercises that simulate security threats and support readiness at the regional level.

3.5 Oman's airports are equipped with advanced detection technologies, and they are engaged in training and licensing aviation security personnel in accordance with national and international legislations, with the aim of dealing with emerging threats to civil aviation security, making Oman a central force in the region and an active player in the development and strengthening of international aviation security frameworks.

4. INFORMATION SHARING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM

4.1 Oman actively participates in counterterrorism efforts, including through intelligence sharing and cooperation with regional and international partners on aviation security and airspace issues.

4.2 Oman engages with regional and international partners to enhance airspace protection against terrorist threats and cooperates with organizations such as Interpol and regional and international security agencies concerned with civil aviation security.

4.3 In addition, Oman cooperates with regional and international law enforcement agencies to address and counter threats, including acts of unlawful interference, that may target its airspace. Furthermore, Oman plays an active role in international conferences, seminars, and workshops focused on combating terrorism and addressing new and emerging threats to civil aviation.

4.4 Oman's keen participation in such events helps it stay abreast of the latest strategies and techniques for combating terrorism and acts of unlawful interference, which are, in turn, adopted in security measures and procedures at its national airports.

5. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN AVIATION SECURITY

5.1 Oman has made significant strides in strengthening its civil aviation security system by adopting and integrating advanced modern technologies in civil aviation security. These technological developments aim to enhance the safety and security of passengers, crew, and air traffic, while positioning Oman as a leader in the region in terms of modern aviation security systems.

5.2 As a technologically advanced country, Oman has sought to use advanced technologies such as sophisticated screening systems to detect threats such as explosives, weapons, and other dangerous substances at its airports. It deployed latest video surveillance and analysis systems to detect unusual behavior, identify potential threats, and provide real-time alerts to security personnel for rapid response to incidents. In addition, Oman relies on electronic security systems and advanced systems such as artificial intelligence.

6. STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING ENVIRONMENT AND EXTENSIVE EXPERTISE

6.1 Oman has invested in the establishment of state-of-the-art training centres to create a conducive learning environment in aviation security, coupled with offering a comprehensive range of training courses in various specializations, including aviation operations, information technology and other areas related to safety and security. Most of the programs are developed in line with the National Aviation Security Training Program (NASTP) and ICAO SARPs, in collaboration with top-rated strategic partners in the industry.

6.2 By leveraging the facilities and expertise of training centres, Oman can expand its services to include specialized aviation security training for regional and international participants.

6.3 Thanks to a world-class international airport that adheres to the highest aviation security standards, Oman has the right infrastructure to support training programs that simulate real-life and hypothetical aviation security scenarios.

6.4 The infrastructure includes modern security technologies such as biometric screening, advanced surveillance systems, and security detection equipment, all of which can be used for training purposes.

6.5 Law enforcement agencies in Oman have extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of airport security protocols, enabling them to collaborate in providing specialized aviation security training.

6.6 Aviation security training courses that can be offered through such advanced centres and by experienced and highly competent specialists include: passenger and baggage screening procedures, airport security protocols, aircraft security (including counterterrorism, hijacking and bomb threats), cyber threats to civil aviation systems, threat identification and risk assessment, crisis management and response to security breaches.

6.7 In addition, international experts and trainers may be invited to deliver advanced programs in collaboration with local trainers.

6.8 Oman has also developed simulation programs that mimic hypothetical and real-life security scenarios at airports and on-board aircraft, which have enabled airport staff to learn how to deal with potential security threats.

6.9 Oman has demonstrated high efficiency in crisis management in various sectors, including civil aviation. That included developing its ability to deal with natural disasters and regional conflicts and to assist friendly countries in resolving conflicts so as to ensure regional stability. Such experience is thus leveraged in preparing training courses that address those aspects, particularly in preparing local and regional officials for emergency response scenarios such as evacuation, kidnappings, or terrorist attacks on airport infrastructure.

7. ROBUST STATE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO AVIATION SECURITY

7.1 Oman is committed to aviation security standards established by ICAO and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

7.2 Such compatibility ensures that Oman is adequately prepared to provide training and best practices in line with global aviation industry best practices.

7.3 Partnerships of the sort facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and resources, making Oman a reliable destination for aviation security training.

7.4 In addition, the Government of Oman prioritizes the security of its airspace, aviation, and infrastructure, in general.

7.5 Oman's security agencies have a proven track record of implementing robust security measures at key transportation hubs, including airports.

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