



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 5: Election of Member States to be represented on the Council

CANDIDATURE OF THE STATE OF QATAR FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL

(Presented by the State of Qatar)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents Qatar's candidature for re-election as member of the Council, under Part III. It highlights the major achievements of Qatar as a premier aviation nation, and indicates some of the contributions Qatar has made in support of the Organization and its objectives. Qatar seeks the support of Member States and looks forward to our continued collaboration towards our common goals.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to all Strategic Goals.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No additional resources required.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 7600/8, <i>Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization</i> A42-WP/2, Supporting Documentation for the Election of Member States to be Represented on the Council

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The State of Qatar has been a Member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for 54 years, and was elected to the Council for the 2022 -2025 triennium. Since joining ICAO, Qatar has been unreservedly committed to the principles and objectives of the Organization, as articulated in particular in the Preamble and Article 44 of the Chicago Convention. Qatar pledges its full support to help ICAO achieve the Vision set out in the latter's Strategic Plan 2026-2050 of "A safe, secure and sustainable international civil aviation system that connects the world for the benefit of all nations and peoples" as well as the accompanying Mission to "lead international civil aviation as a key driver of social and economic development while enhancing aviation safety, security, economic development and environmental sustainability for a growing civil aviation system".

1.2 ICAO anticipates that there will be an increase in passenger traffic from 4.6 billion in 2024 to 12.4 billion in 2050, with growth of similar magnitude for air cargo. To be able to handle this increase,

States must prepare and act now. From having a nascent aviation industry 30 years ago to being a major global actor in the field today, there are many elements of Qatar's experience that has been, and can be, shared in the context of ICAO's global capacity-building programmes, including the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) Strategic Goal to help States adjust to the challenges which will arise as a result of the anticipated growth in air traffic.

1.3 As a current Member of the Council, Qatar plays an active role in advancing the Organization's agenda. For example, its Representative has chaired the Council's Technical Cooperation and Implementation Support Committee and is the current Chairperson of the Air Transport Committee.

1.4 Qatar is seeking re-election to the Council under Part III. The Arab Civil Aviation Organization, during an Extraordinary Session of its General Assembly in May 2025, decided to officially support Qatar's re-election, reflecting the strong regional support for the continued role of Qatar on the Council.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN AVIATION

2.1 Air Transport and Connectivity

2.1.1 Qatar has entered into an extensive network of bilateral and multilateral arrangements that plays a pivotal role in facilitating global air transport, enhancing access to strategic markets, and promoting economic development through trade, tourism and investment. In that regard, it has concluded 183 Air Services Agreements with countries across the globe, covering 94% of ICAO's Member States. It effectively uses the ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) events to promote its vision of a liberalized, safe and sustainable air transport system.

2.1.2 After becoming the first country in the Gulf Region to conclude a Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement with the European Union (EU) and its Member States, Qatar has continued to strengthen its partnership with the EU through successful Joint Committee Meetings held in 2022, 2023 and 2024, which have served as a constructive platform for advancing cooperation in key areas such as market access, fair competition and environmental sustainability.

2.2 Air Navigation, and Security and Facilitation

2.2.1 In *air navigation*, Qatar has positioned itself as a leader by modernizing its air traffic management systems to meet growing demand. Qatar has invested significantly in re-organizing and upgrading its airspace with state-of-the-art technologies such as advanced radar systems, automated air traffic management systems and the most sophisticated tower simulation equipment. Training has been extended to include regional air traffic controllers, ensuring full benefits from the new systems. These advancements have led to optimized air routes, reduced congestion and minimized delays.

2.2.2 Qatar has also played a crucial role in contributing to a more integrated and efficient airspace usage in the Middle East, aligned to ICAO's Global Air Navigation Plan. Qatar has implemented bidirectional Free Route Airspace in areas under its control, which has the potential for even greater regional improvement, efficiency and emissions reductions.

2.2.3 Qatar continues to lead in *aviation security and facilitation* through a dual focus on innovation and international cooperation. Domestically, major strides have been made to enhance risk assessment, including the certification of Explosive Detection Dogs, advanced screening technology trials,

and specialized training for aviation personnel, ensuring robust security without compromising the passenger experience.

2.2.4 The State is an active member of the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme - Middle East (CASP-MID), working closely with regional and international partners to promote best practices, capacity-building, and shared solutions for aviation security and facilitation.

2.2.5 Qatar is an active member of the ICAO Aviation Security Panel, the Facilitation Panel, and the Cybersecurity Panel (as observer) along with their respective working groups. Through its contributions to these technical bodies, Qatar helps shape global policy, ensure alignment with evolving threats and challenges, and advance cooperative solutions that support a secure, seamless and human-centric air transport system.

2.2.6 Qatar was proud to host the 2025 ICAO Facilitation Conference (FALC2025) from 14 to 17 April 2025, with more than 2000 delegates attending. A High-Level Ministerial Segment adopted the landmark Doha Declaration on Facilitation of Air Transport, which provides policy guidance to ICAO in its future work on facilitation.

2.3 Training and the Qatar Aeronautical Academy

2.3.1 The unprecedented growth in global passenger and cargo traffic will increase the demand for aviation professionals. ICAO expects that by 2043, there will be a requirement for 670,000 additional pilots, 1,085,000 cabin crew, 698,000 maintenance personnel, and 137,000 air traffic controllers. ICAO has therefore revitalized its Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) Programme. Qatar supports the ICAO NGAP Strategy as well as the proposed update to Assembly Resolution A39-39 which, inter alia, recognizes that Developing Countries are facing the specific challenge of losing aviation professionals at a faster rate than replacement due to the high demand for skilled aviation professionals in the international market.

2.3.2 Qatar is committed to developing the human element of aviation through provision of strategic funding and technical support, in line with the ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) Strategic Goal.

2.3.3 The Qatar Aeronautical Academy is a premier institution founded in 1977 dedicated to producing highly skilled professionals for the global aviation industry. The Academy offers a wide range of specialized programmes including Pilot Training, Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Air Traffic Control, Meteorology, and Airport Operations Management. With state-of-the-art facilities, modern aircraft, cutting edge simulation equipment and highly qualified faculty staff, the Academy provides a rigorous academic and practical environment aligned with global aviation standards.

2.3.4 The Academy is a Gold Member of the ICAO TRAINAIR Plus Programme. Its specialized courses attract participants from around the world and contribute significantly to global capacity-building efforts. In 2024, the Academy successfully delivered short courses to over 50 participants from Europe, Asia and Africa, fostering cultural exchanges and advancing global aviation expertise.

2.3.5 In 2024, a webinar on International Air Law was conducted for students and staff of the Kyrgyz Aviation Institute, attended by 42 participants from diverse sectors.

2.3.6 Furthermore, 30 students are currently pursuing two-year diplomas at the Academy under the Qatar-ICAO Developing Countries Scholarship Programme, which aims to augment the capabilities developing countries to implement the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and to promote the

safety and development of civil aviation. The Programme was jointly established with ICAO in 2017 and has since been extended.

2.4 Environment

2.4.1 As a member of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) since March 2020, Qatar works alongside 33 Member States to develop and promote strategies that support environmental protection. Qatar is currently active in several CAEP working groups, which highlights Qatar's commitment to setting realistic yet ambitious goals to minimize the environmental impact of air transport, with a focus on long-term sustainability. Qatar also plays a key role as a member of ICAO's Technical Advisory Body, which is responsible for evaluating and approving carbon unit programmes; Qatar holds the position of Vice-Chair, ensuring that Qatar has a voice in setting standards and guidelines relating to carbon offsetting initiatives.

2.4.2 Since 2019, Qatar has played an active role in ICAO's Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for CORSIA (ACT-CORSIA) program, related to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). Qatar has provided support in the form of training and capacity-building initiatives to help States, including several Member States of the African Civil Aviation Commission, to effectively implement the CORSIA scheme.

2.4.3 At the regional level, Qatar participates in the Environmental Committee of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, where Qatar serves as Vice-Chair and is leading efforts to promote environmental sustainability in the region.

2.4.4 Overall, Qatar's engagement in international fora, leadership within ICAO, and active participation at the regional level reflects Qatar's commitment to achieving environmental protection in aviation. Through these efforts, Qatar continues to make a significant contribution to the global shift towards a more sustainable industry, demonstrating that economic growth and environmental responsibility go hand in hand.

2.5 Qatar Airways

2.5.1 Qatar Airways is the national carrier of Qatar and is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, with a fleet size of well over 250 aircraft flying to over 170 global destinations. The airline's strategic investment in modern fuel-efficient aircraft has enabled it to remain agile and sustainable by offering the right capacity in each market to meet both passenger and cargo demand. The fleet continues to be one of the youngest and most modern in the industry.

2.5.2 Since its launch in 1997, Qatar Airways has earned many awards and accolades:

- Recognized as a 5-star Airline by the prestigious international air transport rating organization, Skytrax.
- In 2025, once again named the "World's Best Airline" by Skytrax, retaining the top position for a record-breaking ninth time.
- Also awarded by Skytrax in 2025 the "World's Best Business Class", Best Business Class Lounge", and "Best Airline in the Middle East" for the twelfth time.

2.5.3 Qatar Airways is fully committed to the environment and some of its recent achievements include:

- The first carrier in the Middle East to join the ICAO Global Coalition for Sustainable Aviation.
- The first cargo carrier to join the IATA CO2CONNECT platform offering a new voluntary carbon offsetting programme for air cargo shipments.
- The first airline in the Middle East to achieve the highest level of IATA's Environmental Certification.
- The first airline globally to achieve certification to the commitments within the Buckingham Palace Declaration.
- Qatar Aviation Services, a subsidiary of Qatar Airways Group, is the first ground handler globally to achieve IATA Environmental Management System certification.
- Achieved zero waste to landfill from its Cargo Technical operations at its hub operations.

2.6 Hamad International Airport

2.6.1 Hamad International Airport (HIA) began operations in 2014 and has five concourses under one expansive terminal, offering a seamless travel experience for arriving, departing and transferring passengers. Spanning 845,000 square meters, the airport has a passenger capacity of over 65 million a year and is recognized by Airports Council International as one of the world's top ten busiest airports for international passengers.

2.6.2 From April 2024 to March 2025, HIA served 52.5 million passengers, connecting travellers to over 190 destinations through its 55 airline partners and linked to countries on six continents representing 85% of the world's population, strengthening its position as a major global commercial and tourism hub.

2.6.3 HIA has been recognized by Skytrax as "The World's Best Airport" three times, most recently in 2024. In 2025, it retained its title as the "Best Airport in the Middle East" for the 11th consecutive year and won "Best Airport Shopping" globally for the third year in a row. HIA was also awarded the prestigious "5-star Airport Rating" at the 2025 Skytrax World Airports Awards.

2.6.4 HIA demonstrates environmental stewardship by implementing numerous measures and projects to reduce energy and water consumption and manage waste efficiently. Through its initiatives and collaboration with partners and stakeholders, the airport has received the ISO 14001:2025 Environment Management Systems certificate from the British Standards Institution, and ACI Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 3 "Optimisation".

2.7 Partnerships and relationships with regional organizations

2.7.1 In recognition of the necessity for collaboration to ensure safe, secure, environmentally sound and sustainable international civil aviation, Qatar has fostered strong partnerships with regional organizations such as the African Civil Aviation Commission, the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission, the Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services, and the Pacific Aviation Safety Office. Additionally, Qatar continues to strengthen relationships with the European Civil Aviation Conference, the Eurasian Civil Aviation Conference, the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

3. QATAR'S ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICAO AND ITS MEMBER STATES

3.1 In 2024, Qatar was the 14th largest contributor to the *regular* activities of ICAO.

3.2 In addition, over the last few years, Qatar has made important *voluntary* contributions to various ICAO initiatives, including:

- To the No Country Left Behind Initiative/Strategic Goal.
- To the ICAO Gender Equality Initiative in civil aviation, where 160 female professionals were able to benefit from training courses.
- For iPacks to support States in response, recovery and implementation of resilience efforts during the COVID pandemic and for ICAO's implementation support activities.
- ICAO's Transformational Objective.

3.3 Finally, Qatar has made significant financial contributions in the form of ICAO conferences and meetings sponsorships, including to:

- The 41st Session of the Assembly (2022).
- The High-Level Meeting on the Feasibility of a Long-Term Aspirational Goal for Emissions Reductions (2022).
- Global Implementation Support Symposia.
- The 14th Air Navigation Conference (2024).
- The Council Meeting in Chicago to celebrate the signing of the Chicago Convention (2024).
- The 10th Edition of AFI Aviation Week (2025).

4. QATAR'S CANDIDATURE FOR RE-ELECTION

4.1 Qatar has first-hand experience in developing a world-class aviation industry. It has demonstrated exemplary support to ICAO as an institution and to the latter's principles and objectives. Qatar remains committed to contributing to ICAO's work and deepening collaboration with all Member States. Re-election to the Council will allow Qatar to build on its current work and continue serving the international aviation community in a spirit of cooperation and multilateralism.

4.2 Qatar humbly requests the opportunity to be able to continue its work in the Council, and seeks the support of Member States for its candidature under Part III.

4.3 Qatar has the support of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization in its bid for re-election.