



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

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

CANDIDATURE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the decision adopted at the Extraordinary Session of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) on 8 May 2025, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is honoured to present its candidature for re-election to the ICAO Council under Part III. The UAE remains deeply committed to ICAO's founding principles and strategic objectives. Through continued investment, inclusive partnerships, and regulatory innovation, the UAE contributes actively to global aviation progress, particularly in safety, security, facilitation, cybersecurity, dangerous goods, sustainability, capacity-building, and digital transformation. This paper outlines the UAE's recent contributions and its forward-looking agenda to continue supporting the work of the ICAO Council and ICAO Member States in the triennium ahead.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	<i>This working paper relates to Strategic Goals.</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	
<i>References:</i>	<i>A42-WP/2, Supporting Documentation for the Election of Member States to be represented on the Council</i>

1. ADVANCING GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY AND AVIATION COOPERATION

1.1 With eight airports and 147 million travelers in 2024, the UAE serves as a hub linking East and West. Dubai International Airport remained the world's busiest with 92 million passengers. In 2024, UAE airports handled 4.36 million tonnes of cargo, a 17.8% increase. Emirates SkyCargo, Etihad Cargo, and others support global supply chains with specialized services, reinforcing the UAE's role as a hub for trade and logistics.

1.2 The UAE maintains 189 Air Services Agreements, with over 80% of them liberal, underscoring its commitment to open skies. The UAE's aviation system continues to show excellent performance in safety and security, consistently meeting high standards for compliance with ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), aligning with the Organization's global safety and security goals.

1.3 As air transport continues to grow, the UAE is committed to working closely with ICAO and its Member States to ensure a globally harmonized, safe, secure, and resilient network. The UAE views its Council membership as both an opportunity and a responsibility to support the collective interests of all countries, particularly those requiring enhanced connectivity and institutional development.

2. SAFETY, SECURITY, REGULATORY HARMONIZATION, AND INCLUSIVITY

2.1 As a longstanding supporter of ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" (NCLB) initiative, from 2023 to 2025, the UAE conducted over 50 assistance missions and trained hundreds of individuals through fellowships, deployments, and technical support.

2.2 The UAE experts participate in ICAO groups, chairing the Aviation Security Panel and contributing to panels on safety, security, facilitation, dangerous goods, cybersecurity, and CAEP.

2.3 The UAE actively supports the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative by facilitating youth engagement, capacity-building programmes, and career development pathways. Through scholarships, mentorship networks, and international workshops, the UAE promotes aviation as a career of choice, contributing to the strengthening of the global pipeline of skilled professionals.

2.4 In May 2024, the UAE signed an NGAP MoU with ICAO and launched the '193 Women Empowerment' program, training women and youth in ICAO-certified courses.

2.5 Through ACAA, AFCAC, NACC, and APAC, the UAE assists over 20 states in implementing ICAO SARPs, acting as a bridge between developed and developing markets and advancing ICAO's 'No Country Left Behind' initiative.

2.6 The UAE ensures full accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across its aviation sector. Airports provide dedicated facilities, hidden disability lanyard programmes, and sensory-friendly spaces, while national carriers offer accessible booking platforms and comprehensive assistance services for travellers with special needs.

2.7 In 2024, the UAE launched an AI-driven compliance platform enabling predictive oversight, emissions monitoring, and greater transparency.

2.8 In 2024, the UAE introduced an AI-driven compliance platform and surpassed 1 million ATM movements, supported by an ANS modernization program aligned with ICAO's ASBU framework.

2.9 UAE airlines utilize AI-driven predictive maintenance to enhance efficiency and safety, while Dubai Airport employs biometric systems to improve passenger flow.

2.10 In 2025, the UAE established the world's first regulatory framework for hybrid electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) operations, facilitating the safe introduction of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) in urban areas. The framework employs a performance-based, risk-aware approach, establishing a global benchmark for future air mobility regulations.

2.11 The UAE will continue to invest in digital regulatory infrastructure and share best practices through ICAO's Innovation and Implementation Support frameworks.

3. LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

3.1 The UAE has played a key role in ICAO's environmental efforts. In 2023, the UAE hosted CAAF/3, which led to the adoption of the Global Framework. It launched the region's first SAF policy, targeting 700 million liters by 2030 and a 1% blend mandate by 2031.

3.2 The UAE Government, following the announcement of CAAF3 Global Framework, has endorsed and announced a national SAF policy aligned with the National SAF roadmap, aiming for a production capacity of 700 million liters by 2030 and a 1% blending mandate by 2031—the first in the Middle East. These initiatives directly support ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

3.3 The UAE is a government that believes in and advocates for energy transition. Therefore, the UAE is leading the LCAF, along with other regional states, in preparing to transition to a source of energy that is safer and cleaner, such as SAF and other cleaner energy options.

3.4 Since 2023, the UAE expert has served as CAEP Vice-Chair and contributed over 30 experts to its working groups.

3.5 To advance ICAO's net-zero 2050 goals, the UAE launched key initiatives:

- The UAE government established a national committee led by the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure to expedite the production of aviation eligible Aviation fuels, including LCAF, SAF, and other cleaner energies.
- Launched in 2024, the UAE's Digital CORSIA Platform automates CO₂ MRV and is now seen as a regional and global benchmark.
- In 2025, the UAE launched GSAM as an annual ICAO event, complementing the FINVEST Hub by linking projects with investors and driving scalable climate finance.
- UAE has prepared its third version of the State Action Plan, which focuses on a number of initiatives and projects that will pave the way for the country to achieve its net-zero target by 2050, including 13 initiatives on fuel and 42 initiatives on operations and technology.

4. UAE'S STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ICAO OBJECTIVES

4.1 The UAE has demonstrated sustained diplomatic commitment to ICAO's work through hosting, advocacy, and strategic support mechanisms. Key engagements include:

- **Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3)** – Dubai, November 2023
- **Global Implementation Support Symposium (GISS 2025)** – Abu Dhabi, February 2025
- First international global promotion of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) in Dubai – November 2024

- **ICAO** AVSEC Panel Intersessional Meeting, working group and task forces meetings, and regional seminars hosted in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Fujairah, focused on safety oversight, aviation and landslide security, ANS innovation, and cyber readiness

5. CONCLUSION

In accordance with the decision adopted at the Extraordinary Session of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) on 8 May 2025, the United Arab Emirates reaffirms the candidature introduced in this paper as both a national commitment and a regional voice. Echoing the priorities outlined in the executive summary, the UAE aligns its re-election bid with ICAO's five Strategic Objectives and its long-term vision of achieving zero fatalities, net-zero emissions, and inclusive global connectivity by 2050. The UAE's demonstrated contributions in safety oversight, innovation, environmental action, and capacity-building, together with its sustained record of partnership, will continue to serve the collective interests of all Member States. We therefore respectfully request the support of the Assembly for the UAE's re-election to the ICAO Council under Part III, thereby ensuring continuity of the commitments outlined at the outset of this paper.

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