



ICAO

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**Fourteenth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean
Directors of Civil Aviation (NACC/DCA/14)
St. George's, Antigua and Barbuda, 1 to 5 June 2026**

Agenda Item 3 Innovation Panel

INNOVATION PANEL GENERAL INFORMATION

“Regulatory and Institutional Sandboxes in the CAR Region: From Innovation to Governance Impact”

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
Following the discussions held during the 42nd ICAO Assembly on the adoption of sandboxes to enhance regulatory agility for innovation, resilience and evidence-based decision-making in civil aviation, States were invited to adopt such mechanisms as part of their regulatory toolkits. This paper provides a brief explanation on the Innovation Panel on Regulatory and Institutional Sandboxes in the CAR Region.	
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every Flight is Safe and Secure• Aviation is Environmentally Sustainable• Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All• No Country Left Behind• The International Civil Aviation Convention and Other Treaties, Laws and Regulations Address All Challenges• The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembly 42nd Session, Executive Committee Report (Doc 10225)

1. Introduction

1.1 During the 42nd Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, Member States emphasized the importance of innovation-driven governance mechanisms, including the use of regulatory and institutional sandboxes, to address emerging challenges in aviation.

1.2 Sandboxes provide controlled environments where States can test new regulatory approaches, technologies, and institutional arrangements while maintaining acceptable levels of safety, security, and compliance. For the Caribbean (CAR) Region, where States often face capacity constraints, fragmented institutional frameworks, and evolving operational demands, sandboxes offer a practical pathway to:

- Accelerate regulatory modernization
- Strengthen inter-agency coordination
- Improve performance-based oversight
- Enhance service delivery in aviation systems

2. Discussion

2.1 To understand and raise awareness of this concept and move into implementation of this concept, a panel on Regulatory and Institutional Sandboxes in the CAR Region will be conducted, which will serve as a catalyst for regional dialogue, collaboration, and concrete action toward that goal. The **Appendix** contains a concept note for this Panel.

2.2 Through these topics the following key discussion themes shall be covered:

- Governance modernization and regulatory agility
- Performance- and risk-based oversight
- Inter-agency coordination and institutional integration
- Digital transformation and data governance
- Regional collaboration and knowledge sharing

2.3 The objective of this panel is to:

- Explore how CAR States can design and implement sandbox approaches to improve governance
- Share experiences, challenges, and opportunities related to institutional innovation
- Identify priority areas for sandbox application in the region
- Develop actionable recommendations for ICAO and States

3. Conclusion

3.1 Regulatory and institutional sandboxes represent a strategic tool for transforming aviation governance in the CAR Region. By enabling controlled innovation with sandboxes, States can move toward more agile, data-driven, and performance-based systems, ultimately enhancing safety, security, efficiency, and sustainability.

3.2 This panel will serve as a catalyst for regional dialogue, collaboration, and concrete action toward that goal.

APPENDIX
CONCEPT NOTE
Regulatory and Institutional Sandboxes in the CAR Region
Enhancing Governance and Institutional Effectiveness in Civil Aviation

1. Background

1.1 During the 42nd Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, Member States emphasized the importance of innovation-driven governance mechanisms, including the use of regulatory and institutional sandboxes, to address emerging challenges in aviation.

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2. Objective

2.1 The objective of this panel is to:

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3. Expected Outcomes

3.1 The panel is expected to deliver:

- Identification of 2–3 priority sandbox areas for the CAR Region (if possible)
- A set of key governance enablers (legal, institutional, operational)
- Recognition of common challenges and mitigation strategies
- Initial agreement on regional cooperation or pilot initiatives (propose if possible)
- Policy-oriented recommendations aligned with ICAO Strategic Objectives 2026–2050

4. Format

- Type: Moderated Panel Discussion
- Participants: 5 CAR Member States (senior representatives from Civil Aviation Authorities and/or Director General)
- Duration: 50 minutes

5. Proposed Structure:

- Opening and context setting (5 minutes)
- Panel interventions (30 minutes)
- Interactive discussion with audience (10 minutes)
- Summary and key recommendations (5 minutes)

6. Key Themes for Discussion

- Governance modernization and regulatory agility
- Performance- and risk-based oversight
- Inter-agency coordination and institutional integration
- Digital transformation and data governance
- Regional collaboration and knowledge sharing

7. Conclusion

7.1 Regulatory and institutional sandboxes represent a strategic tool for transforming aviation governance in the CAR Region. By enabling controlled innovation with sandboxes, States can move toward more agile, data-driven, and performance-based systems, ultimately enhancing safety, security, efficiency, and sustainability.

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