



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Facilitation Programmes

ESTABLISHING A COMMON POLICY FOR PASSPORT VALIDITY

(Presented by Bangladesh)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents the importance of establishing a unified policy for validity period of travel document.

ICAO's leadership and activities in travel documentation policy matters are recognized by the UNSC to have made a significant contribution to enhancing air transport facilitation and aviation security, notably through progressive travel document standards.

The high rate of growth of aviation requires systems and processes that can cope with tomorrow's challenges in the facilitation of passengers. As a general rule, passports should have at least six months of validity when traveling internationally. Majority of States follow the six-month passport validity period, while some States accept a three-month, four-month or 45-day validity period. This creates confusion and inconvenience for travellers. In order to facilitate a common policy in harmonized validity of passports for States, common directives from ICAO may be helpful to have a standard practice.

A provision of such a policy from ICAO will allow the States to have a uniform requirement for harmonized validity period of passports.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) recognize the importance of establishing a common policy for harmonized validity of travel document;
- b) urge Member States to consult with others about common problems that they may have in the facilitation field so that a uniform solution of such problems may be reached, such as harmonized validity period of passports; and
- c) request Member States to intimate other States as soon as possible when any changes in boarder control policy including travel document to avoid any inconvenience caused for travelling public.

Strategic Objectives:

This working paper relates to the Strategic Objective *Security and Facilitation*.

Financial implications:

N/A

References:

Annex 9 — *Facilitation* (15th Edition, 2017)
UN Sustainable Development Goals
Doc 10075, *Assembly Resolutions in Force (as of 6 October 2016)*
Doc 10140, *Assembly Resolutions in Force (as of 4 October 2019)*
Doc 9303, *Machine Readable Travel Documents*

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The 39th Session of the Assembly adopted Resolution A39-20 – *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation*. The statement reflected developments in, as well as the future focus of, ICAO's work in the field of Facilitation, which is composed of three separate, but inter-related, programmes.

- a) Annex 9 — *Facilitation*;
- b) The ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy; and
- c) The ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 A passport is a travel document issued by country of origin, which allows travellers to travel internationally. Usually, an ordinary passport is valid for five to ten years. When traveling abroad, it is essential to have a valid passport. Six months is now generally observed as a standard validity requirement in many countries.

2.2 The six-month validity passport rule is a requirement of many countries accepting foreign travellers. Countries do not want to risk having travellers and tourists overstaying their passport validity. Most visitors to their destination countries are also now required to have six months validity of their passports.

2.3 Not all countries follow the six-month requirement. Some countries require a three-month or four-month, or 45 days duration period. This requirement changes based on where visitors are traveling and sometimes even based on their nationality.

2.4 Some countries make amendment in border control policy for their national requirements. Late intimation of such changes to other States may cause inconvenience upon arrival or while checking in ports.

2.5 Countries with a Six-Month Passport Validity Requirement

2.5.1 The list of countries that require six months passport validity are: Afghanistan, Algeria, Anguilla, Bahrain, Bhutan, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte D'Ivoire, Curacao, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Somaliland, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2.6 Countries with a Three-Month Passport Validity Requirement

2.6.1 The list of countries that require three months passport validity are: Albania*, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras*, Iceland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North

Macedonia*, Norway, Panama*, Poland, Portugal, Senegal*, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

**These countries require a three-month passport validity from date of arrival into the country. Schengen countries require a passport validity of 3 months from the date intend to leave the EU.*

2.7 Countries with other Passport Validity Requirements

2.7.1 Besides the six-month or three-month passport requirement, some countries require other validity periods:

Country	Passport Validity Period
Bermuda	45 days upon entry
Eritrea, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Macau, South Africa, Maldives	3 months on arrival
Micronesia and Zambia	4 months on arrival

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Passport requirements often differ from nation to nation. Requirements for each country can change at any time. Some States are more relaxed about the six-month passport validity rule. For example, Canada and Mexico are the two most commonly travelled countries that now often enforce the passport validity rule (only three months validity needed for Canada and Mexico).

3.2 World leaders including ICAO leadership are requested to build a general consensus on having a common requirement for a harmonized validity of passport to facilitate the travelling public.

3.3 Any change in border control policy to be intimated to other States as soon as possible to avoid sufferings of traveling passengers' arrival or while checking in ports.