



**WORKING PAPER**

**ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION**

**Agenda Item 37: Aviation Data — Monitoring and Analysis**

**EXAMINATION OF KEY ISSUES RELATED TO THE ICAO STATISTICS PROGRAMME**

(Presented by Guyana and supported by Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,  
El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Uruguay)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This working paper notes ICAO's work with respect to its Statistics Programme and big data analytics, presents an assessment of ICAO's key offerings with respect to aviation data and statistics, and proposes that ICAO review its mandatory user subscription charge in this regard.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to:

- a) recommend ICAO to continue its work on the emerging issue of big data analytics for aviation; and
- b) recommend ICAO to review its policy on charging for access to its provision of aviation statistics with the aim of providing free access to States.

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| <i>Strategic Objectives:</i>   | This working paper relates to Strategic Objective – <i>Economic Development of Air Transport.</i> |
| <i>Financial implications:</i> | N/A   |
| <i>References:</i>             | N/A   |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Cooperative Republic of Guyana recognizes ICAO's continued work in supporting States and aviation stakeholders in data-driven decision-making through the provision of aviation data and statistics and lauds all the progress made in this regard.

1.2 In particular, ICAO's updates on the modernization of its Statistics Programme and its work on big data analytics, as has been promulgated by the ICAO Council working paper A40-WP/19, has been appreciatively noted.

1.3 In this regard, this working paper acknowledges ICAO's work on the Statistics Programme and shares on the need for wider access to comprehensive aviation data.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak of 2019 dramatically changed the global aviation landscape. It disrupted air transport operations of airlines, airports and air navigation services providers worldwide, and led to an unprecedented decline in the industry. During this time, access to data became critical. It became imperative for States and all other aviation stakeholders to monitor aviation data and statistics to assess the pandemic's evolving impact in order to make data-driven decisions. Access to data became critical and ICAO's role as the central international agency responsible for civil aviation statistics took on even greater importance.

2.2 International air traffic levels in Guyana too suffered an unprecedented downward trend as a result of local, regional and global COVID-19 related air travel restrictions. International air passenger traffic for Guyana were 751,631, 205,085 and 399,483 in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively; international passenger traffic is still recovering. Of note, however, is the fact that freight traffic remained relatively unaffected during this time.

2.3 In light of the above, it is important to note the work of the ICAO Statistics Programme. The ICAO Statistics Programme has its genesis in Article 67 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944, which sets out States' obligation to file statistical data with ICAO. This was enacted out of recognition of the need for complete and reliable aviation statistics for informed decision-making and analyses of the state of global, regional and local aviation. One of the main ways aviation data is channelled into the Statistics Programme is through the statistics data series collection via the Air Transport Reporting (ATR) forms.

2.4 Guyana strives to comply with ICAO's data collection mandate by way of the submission of the relevant and required ATR forms. Moreover, the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority has aimed to align its aviation data collection system to match ICAO's in an effort to help meet reporting requirements.

2.5 One cannot over emphasize the need and use of data for key decision making, small States are particularly disadvantaged when they have to pay to access data. For equitable development to take place, equal access to data is vital, especially since all the major programmes of ICAO that are to be implemented at the State level require supporting data.

2.6 Regarding the publication and dissemination of traffic, operational, financial and personnel civil aviation statistics, it is recognized that ICAO has developed several tools in this regard. These key tools include ICAO Data Plus, ICAO eTools and Civil Aviation Data Solutions (iCADS).

ICAO Data Plus tool allows users to access ICAO's civil aviation statistics series collection in an online visual interactive interface, whereas eTools represents a collection of applications that enable users to access and visualize other ICAO data such as airline traffic trends and forecasts and routes as well as Air Services Agreements (ASAs) mapping. And, the iCADs tool presents a one-stop portal which is a conglomeration of all the apps from Data Plus and eTools, as well as ICAO's newer business intelligence offerings and other documentation.

2.7 Guyana recognizes the importance of all ICAO's efforts regarding the collection, analysis and standardization of civil aviation statistics, and aviation data analytics in general, to the global community. As a UN specialized agency, ICAO's role in this regard cannot be over-emphasized. However, it must be noted that access to the aforementioned data tools and documentation are primarily granted to prospective users upon the payment of a subscription fee. Though it is recognized that some of these items feature a free demo version and States' nominated statistics focal points may be entitled to some amount of basic access at no charge, the wider community has to go through a paywall.

2.8 Increased access to data and information which allows for examining the performance of air transport can aid States in improving their level of compliance with ICAO programmes and initiatives by way of improved monitoring, benchmarking, analysis and implementation.

### 3. CONCLUSION

3.1 In recognition of the importance of quality and comprehensive aviation data to States and the wider aviation industry from which much of the data was garnered, it is Guyana's position that ICAO considers reviewing and amending its charge policy in relation to the provision of the range of aviation statistics it disseminates, either partially or in its entirety, with the aim of providing free access to States, particularly small States.

3.2 The Assembly is invited to:

- a) recommend ICAO to continue its work on the emerging issue of big data analytics for aviation; and
- b) recommend ICAO to review its policy on charging for access to its provision of aviation statistics with the aim of providing free access to States.

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