



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 28: Other high-level policy issues to be considered by the Executive Committee

ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AT ASSEMBLY

(Presented by New Zealand)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ICAO has a well-established system for the presentation of credentials at Assembly, but it is not adaptive to the increasing use of technology for many administrative functions. Delegations can experience difficulties, and especially delay, as they seek to complete the necessary steps to have credentials signed-off in time before they depart for Assembly. Changes to allow the electronic presentation of credentials would ease the burden on delegations as they prepare for Assembly and ensure last-minute changes in delegation composition are easily accommodated.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this paper;
- b) acknowledge that the increasing use of technology should permit a non-paper alternative to the presentation of credentials at Assembly; and
- c) request the Council to consider a technological alternative in time for the presentation of credentials at the 42nd Session of the Assembly.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objective of Economic Development of Air Transport: Sustainable Development of Air Transport Meetings and Events.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	The adoption of an electronic alternative to hard copy credentials would be expected to have no financial implications for States and minimal financial implications for the Secretariat.
<i>References:</i>	None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Credentials have a long-accepted role in verifying that delegates to inter-governmental meetings have the authority to represent the views of their home government. ICAO is no different in requiring that delegates attending Assembly are properly credentialed in order to participate legitimately at Assembly. ICAO requires that credentials in original form be sent prior to Assembly as well as presented in hard copy by each delegation upon their arrival at Assembly.

2. ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE HARD COPY REQUIREMENT FOR CREDENTIALS

2.1 The requirement to both send, and present, credentials in hard copy places an administrative burden on delegations. Postal systems and their effectiveness vary across all ICAO member States. Furthermore, the requirement for hard copies adds to the various other tasks incumbent on delegations as they prepare for Assembly, such as securing flights, entry documentation and accommodation. A solution lies in adopting technology to allow for the electronic presentation of credentials.

2.2 The main advantage of the electronic presentation of credentials (such as sending via email) is that it lengthens the timeframe in which credentials can be finalised as well as allowing for greater flexibility. Unavoidable changes in the composition of delegations due to illness or other reasons could be overcome more readily by an electronic amendment right up to the time a delegation arrives.

2.3 Electronic credentials also have an environmental benefit as they would replace paper, and they would remove the need to physically hold the hard copies. This would fit well with ICAO's documentation policy as the 41st Assembly will be conducted as a paperless event, and no Assembly documentation in paper format will be distributed.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Assembly should look to adapt to the increasing prevalence of technology in offering a sustainable alternative to current practices. The Council should be urged to consider the introduction of a technological alternative to the requirement for hard copy credentials in time for the 42nd Session of the Assembly.