



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Agenda Item 37: Aviation Data — Monitoring and Analysis

REDUCTION OF GAPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA AND METHODOLOGICAL GUIDANCE BETWEEN CARGO AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT

(Presented by Chile with the support of 19 member States of LACAC²)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Considering that a large part of the information, documentation, statistics and methodological guidance published by ICAO refers to passenger transport, and in view of the fact that cargo plays a major role in commercial aviation, this paper sets out the need to produce more documentation and studies on cargo transport and to reduce the information gap between passengers and commercial cargo.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Gather more information and documentation that contributes to the development of air cargo;
- b) Request the Council to continue its work in preparing official documentation and methodological guidance on various areas of air cargo transport.

<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 Spanish version provided by Chile.

² Argentina, Aruba, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Air cargo transport has grown significantly worldwide in recent decades, and this has led to progress in various areas of the sector, such as improvement in the supply chain and the optimization of airport logistics.

1.2 During the pandemic, the air cargo industry played a key role in transporting supplies between countries to address the impacts of the health emergency, while also reducing the impact on airlines of health restrictions on passenger flights by replacing them with cargo flights.

1.3 ICAO regularly publishes documentation, recommendations and methodological guidance for the industry in which greater emphasis is placed, in general, on the development of more specific studies on passenger transport than on the transport of goods, and as a result there is by comparison less information and fewer statistics or references relating to cargo and/or mail transport.

1.4 This document pertains to the growing need to generate more content and informative material on cargo transport, based on its increased importance globally, and thereby to reduce the gap in information about cargo and passengers.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Given the increasing liberalization of cargo transport and the great air connectivity between the different countries of the world, goods are now being transported to a larger number of destinations. Air cargo traffic thus stands out for its special potential in the development of e-commerce, given that electronic commerce is expected to account for 96 per cent of international postal shipments by 2025³.

2.2 Freight transport played a fundamental role during the pandemic as it made it possible to meet the demand for timely medical supplies to address the global health emergency. Although passenger transport and belly flights fell by 98 per cent, cargo transport prevented the public health restrictions from having an even greater effect on airlines' profitability by replacing the supply of passenger flights with cargo flights. Thus, even during the pandemic, global cargo flights showed year-over-year growth of 2.74 per cent in 2020⁴.

2.3 There is a gap between the information reported and analysed for passenger transport and for freight transport, with a greater emphasis being placed on passenger-related information. This is demonstrated by such information as the regular updating of air transport demand projections, the impact of COVID-19 on air traffic and the share of air transport in national income being expressed mainly in terms of passengers.

³ Pre-pandemic projections set out in ICAO Priority Brief Air Cargo, updated 2021, 04.

⁴ ICAO Priority Brief Air Cargo, updated 2021, 04.

3. **PROPOSAL**

3.1 The Assembly is invited to support work to reduce the current information gap between cargo and passengers, owing to the fact that greater emphasis is placed on the development of data and documentation for passengers.

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