



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Facilitation Programmes

ESTABLISHING A DEFINITION FOR FACILITATION

(Presented by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and supported by Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay)²

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this working paper is to address a particularity of the editions of Annex 9 — *Facilitation* of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, with regard to the lack of a definition of the term “facilitation”. It is assumed that, in order to develop an annex, the area of specialization or subject matter of the annex must first be defined. The foreword of Doc 9957, *The Facilitation Manual* presents the general concept of the term “facilitation”. It does not, however, fully cover the levels of competence of this specialized area, thus making it appropriate to develop the concept in the present paper.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) take into consideration the approaches presented in this working paper;
- b) modify and expand the concept of “facilitation” presented in the foreword of Doc 9957, where the different competencies developed on this subject are explored more broadly; and
- c) establish a definition for the concept of “facilitation”, to be incorporated in the definitions of Annex 9.

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| <i>Strategic Objectives:</i> | This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives <i>Security & Facilitation</i> |
| <i>Financial implications:</i> | No additional financial resources are applicable |
| <i>References:</i> | Annex 9 — <i>Facilitation</i> Doc 9957, <i>The Facilitation Manual</i> |

¹ Spanish version provided by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

² Member States of the South American (SAM) Region and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Inherent in the principles of uniformity underpinning the development of international standards and recommended practices in civil aviation, it is usual to expect that the Annexes to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* will include relevant definitions that provide particular and specific meaning to terms arising in those Annexes and that relate to the area of specialization or subject matter of the document.

1.2 Examples of the definitions provided for some of the areas of specialization can be found in such cases as “Aviation Security” or “Safety”, which are defined in the relevant chapters of Annexes 17 and 19.

1.3 In the case of Annex 9, no definition is provided for the term “facilitation”, although it is the main subject of this document.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 The foreword to Doc 9957 presents an approximation of what could be considered a definition of the term “facilitation”. It does not, however, fully cover the different levels of competence of this specialized field. It is therefore important to offer an analysis and an improvement of this definition, since — in addition to the rules on immigration, health, customs and clearance — aviation security measures should also be considered a further border control to ensure that all operators guarantee compliance with these measures and do not generate unnecessary delays in air navigation.

2.2 Furthermore, the term “facilitation” should relate not only to Aviation Security (AVSEC); it should also be associated with other areas, including airport operations, safety and security, migration, customs, and human, animal and plant health.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Following the standardized approach of presenting definitions in the Annexes to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, where such terms are used in the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), and where it is necessary to explain why some terms do not convey the current meaning, such definitions are essential for the proper interpretation of the SARPs. It can therefore be concluded that a definition of the term “facilitation” would be of great help when referring to the singularity of all the activities included in Annex 9.