International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14: Aviation Security – Policy

DEVELOPMENT OF iPACK FOR ASSISTANCE TO STATES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY REQUIRED BY ICAO

(Presented by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and supported by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay)[2]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global aviation is a highly complex and integrated system comprising information and communications technologies that are critical to security and necessary for the protection of civil aviation operations. For that reason, ICAO established the Cybersecurity Strategy as an aspect of vital importance, setting out through its seven pillars the need to raise awareness and recognize cybersecurity using a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary approach in which all fields of civil aviation converge. ICAO iPacks include guidance, instructions, tools and specialized support for States, enabling them to build significant capacities for the implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). In this regard, it is important to have iPack packages to provide specialized guidance to States on the development and implementation of protection measures for information and communications technology systems and critical data used for civil aviation purposes, as well as lines of action to strengthen capacities to counter cyber threats.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:
a) take note of the information presented in this Working Paper, and
b) request the Council to develop an iPack aimed at providing assistance to States to accelerate the implementation of the ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy using a multidisciplinary approach, recognizing its interdependence and cross-cutting nature, and its importance for ensuring security, availability, continuity and overall safety.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to the *Security and Facilitation* Strategic Objective.
Financial implications:	It is proposed that the activities referred to in this paper be implemented within the resources available in the regular programme budget for the current triennium and/or with extrabudgetary contributions.
References:	Annex 17 – *Aviation Security* *Aviation Cybersecurity Strategy*

[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 The global aviation system is a highly complex and integrated environment comprising information and communications technologies that are critical to security and necessary for the protection of civil aviation operations. For that reason, safeguarding those technologies and protecting them against deliberate attacks or incidents that put the continuity and availability of aviation activities and services at risk is becoming increasingly relevant owing to their criticality and sensitivity.

1.2 Given the interdependence of civil aviation processes and therefore of all the information technology assets that support them, the implementation of the ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy is of vital importance, since its seven pillars make it possible to raise awareness and recognize cybersecurity using a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary approach in which all fields of civil aviation converge.

1.3 It is therefore essential to accelerate the implementation of the ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy in all Member States and seek to integrate it into a single framework that enables the management of cyber risks and the strengthening of cybersecurity in the industry.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 Part of the coordination effort of ICAO can be seen in the provision of a series of assistance packages (iPacks) that support States in the effective implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), policies, strategies, plans and programmes by providing guidance material and dedicated training through expert professionals, an initiative that has achieved significant and tangible results globally.

2.2 Currently, iPacks address priority areas for States and industry, “such as aviation safety, security, public health, passenger facilitation, airports and air navigation services, and air transport economics”. However, there are still no guidance texts, training, tools or specialized support related to the implementation of the ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy using a multidisciplinary approach, which would make it possible to address in a logical, orderly and coherent way each of the pillars and areas that make up the civil aviation system and to recognize their interdependence and the associated risk factors that could affect and disrupt continuity and overall safety.

2.3 It is therefore proposed that an assistance package (iPack) be developed that enables States to accelerate the implementation of the ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy through tools and specialized guidance for the adoption of best practices to ensure the protection of information and communications technology systems and critical data used for civil aviation, as well as lines of action on strengthening States’ capacities to counter cyber threats.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Civil aviation is a highly complex system which uses technologies that are a critical component for safe operations and that need to be protected. The ICAO Cybersecurity Strategy is a vitally important aspect, recognizing a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary approach in which all fields of civil aviation converge.

3.2 In this regard, it is important for States to have specialized guidance for the development and implementation of protection measures for information and communications technology systems and critical data used in civil aviation, as well as lines of action on strengthening capacities to counter cyber threats.

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