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ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Facilitation programmes

BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE FACILITATION AND INCREASE SECURITY IN AIR TRANSPORT

(Presented by Brazil)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Air transport has several characteristics, among which agility, security, and safety in the movement of people and goods. The technology used efficiently by airports and airlines around the world can further increase air transport facilitation rates, streamlining people boarding procedures, while increasing air operations' safety and security. Annex 9 — *Facilitation* establishes that the Contracting States must develop information technologies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of airport procedures. In this regard, innovative initiatives are being implemented in Brazil to promote and use effectively technologies that can contribute to increase security and bring greater agility to the traveller's flow (passengers and crew).

The Assembly is invited to know the projects that are being adopted in Brazil regarding the biometric reading technologies that aim at improving security and agility of the boarding process.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This information paper relates to Strategic Objectives: Security and Facilitation.
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<i>Financial implications:</i>	
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<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 9 — <i>Facilitation</i>• Annex 17 — <i>Aviation Security</i>
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Considering the great benefits stemming from the adoption of biometrics, the Safer Boarding Project was created by the Brazilian government, and has been implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure in partnership with the Federal Data Processing Service, known as SERPRO. The project aims at promoting biometric verification of traveller's identity and the use of facial recognition to allow access to the airport departure lounge, passport control and boarding without the need of any paper document or boarding pass.

1.2 From the point of view of civil aviation security, the reading of travel documents by digital means and the biometric identification of traveller's ensure the authenticity of the document. Furthermore, it also ensures that the holder of the document is, in fact, the person authorized to board the aircraft, bringing greater reliability to the boarding control.

1.3 Regarding the facilitation of air transport, the use of such technologies allows the traveller boarding process to be completely touchless. This means that the process is carried out without contact with surfaces, documents and employees, speeding up the boarding and disembarkation processes and formalities from customs and immigration, as well as contributing to health measures in air transport.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 An adequate information technology structure associated with security procedures enable several actions such as the analysis of the risk profile of passengers based on the data obtained before the embarkation process. Consequently, forwarding of low-risk passengers to more flexible security procedures can contribute to the agility of procedures and reduction of queues at the airports.

2.2 It is important to highlight that better use of technology in passenger processing at airports has already been perceived in recent years. However, it has gained even more importance considering the need for touchless procedures and social isolation arising from the pandemic of COVID-19. It is essential to encourage the use of technology to make the processes sanitarly safer and enhance the travel experience, enabling the traveller to have a seamless journey, free of any kind of physical documents exchange.

2.3 This scenario emphasizes another great advantage of touchless technologies: the reduction of contact between people (travellers and employees of airports and airlines), security equipment and travel documents. This promotes less circulation and contagion of viruses and bacteria, thus helping the public health.

The Safer Boarding Project

2.4 Brazil is modernizing boarding processes and promoting this facilitation at airports through the Safer Boarding Project, which uses facial biometry to recognize passengers and crew at airports and aircrafts accesses, eliminating the need of paper identification documents.

2.5 The Safer Boarding Project was planned to address the need to improve aspects related to air transport security and facilitation. Previously seen as antagonistic points - where the increase of one would invariably lead to a reduction of the other - today, mainly due to the improvement of technology, it is possible and desirable that those principles evolve together.

2.6 To prove the traveller's identity, any civil identification document valid throughout the country is accepted, such as state-issued identity cards, national driver's licenses, passports, identification documents issued by professional councils and military bodies, functional identities issued by the government, among others. The airline employees are responsible for checking passenger identity.

2.7 Thus, the main goal of the Safer Boarding Project is to check the identity of travellers by biometric validation, at check-in, and of the crew at the airlines operational department, cross-checking it with the biometric record contained in government databases and enabling an accurate and secure verification of the traveller's identity. In addition, by linking their biometrics to the boarding pass, the traveller's entire journey within the airport environment is made without the need for further identity checks or presentation of paper documents.

2.8 Initially, tests of the project were run in domestic flights at the airports of Florianópolis, Salvador, Belo Horizonte – Confins, Brasília and Ribeirão Preto for passengers, and São Paulo - Congonhas and Rio de Janeiro - Santos Dumont for passengers and crew, by the three main airlines in Brazil: Azul, Gol and Latam. Currently, the project is under final adjustments in the interaction between the technological services and databases used before it can be implemented on a large scale.

How it works

2.9 At the moment of check-in, the biometric data of the traveller is registered, using their unique national taxpayer number as a key, and taking a frontal photo in the airline application. This information is transferred using a tool developed by SERPRO to verify biographic and biometric data in government databases (National Drivers Licences DataBase, Electoral Title Database and National Crew Database). The biometrics check by consulting government records will only be carried out at this stage, and the following conferences (access to the Security Restricted Areas - SRA at the airport and at the boarding gate to the aircraft) will be made using the photo captured and validated at the time of check-in.

2.10 The implementation of the project will provide an increase in the level of facilitation of air transport for passengers and crew at the time of access to the departure lounge and the aircraft, associated with an increase in the level of civil aviation security against illicit acts, bringing greater ease access and avoiding delays caused by the checking process of documents. Validation through the federal government database also provides greater reliability in identifying the individual, repressing fraud and access attempts through invalid or illicit documents.

3. UPCOMING CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 At first, the Safer Boarding Project will reach Brazilian passengers and crew on regular commercial flights operated by national airlines. In the future, with the implementation and development of technologies and information integration, immigration databases may be incorporated to expand the project to international flights and foreign travellers.

3.2 Furthermore, the implementation of this new technology at airports is harmonized with protection measures associated with cybersecurity, in order to contribute not only to strengthening facilitation and security procedures at checkpoints, but also to fostering the protection of the technological infrastructures of aeronautical and airport systems.

3.3 In addition, the Safer Boarding Project will bring further benefits to airports and airlines, with a significant reduction in operating costs expected through the adoption of biometric recognition technology. Also, if given permission to access passengers information, airports and airlines will be able to

offer an improved travel experience via exclusive and tailored benefits and customised communication with that passenger, allowing for an eventual revenue increase.

3.4 For companies that provide technical solutions for biometric recognition, the adoption of the project will foster the national market, opening new business opportunities and enabling sector competitiveness to reduce the costs involved in the acquisition of equipment, and maintenance. As for personal passenger data being used by airports, airlines or other private sector stakeholders to improve the travel experience, for example, such sharing can only be done with the consent of the data holder in writing or by other means that demonstrate the manifestation of its will and should refer only to determined purposes. The Safer Boarding Project is also fully aligned with the main international initiatives and projects in this area, such as the Traveller Identification Program (TRIP) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the One ID initiative of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

3.5 With the Safer Boarding Project, the use of biometric passenger identification and the sharing of their travel information goes beyond the simple substitution of a boarding pass or physical identity document. It will change the relationship between travellers and airlines, airports and public agencies and bring security, efficiency and benefits to all involved.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The use of biometrics as access control improves security and facilitation of air transport. At the same time, this is a new way of thinking about people accessing airports and boarding.

4.2 In this regard, the 41st Assembly and the contracting States are invited to:

- a) know the projects that are being adopted in Brazil regarding the biometric reading technologies that aim at better security and higher agility of the boarding process.

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