

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
Seventh Meeting of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the SAM Region
(RAAC/7)**

(Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 1-3 July 2002)

Agenda Item 3: Regional System of Safety Oversight

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE
Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance**

(Presented by the United States)

INFORMATION PAPER

Summary

This paper contains information regarding the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASA) held in April in Mexico. GEASA, which falls under the auspices of the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (WHTI), convened in compliance with the WHTI Ministerial statement resulting from the March 2001 meeting in Punta de Este, Uruguay directing the Executive Committee to propose, " ...within as short a time frame as possible, an action plan that will allow for the improvement of aviation safety conditions in the region, including the identification of programs and sources of funding." All States are encouraged to attend the next GEASA meeting on October 24-25, 2002.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2001, during the Punta del Este Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (WHTI) Ministerial, Transportation Ministers signed a joint ministerial statement that directed the WHTI Executive Committee to propose an action plan that would allow for the improvement of aviation safety in the region.

1.2 In response to this request, the Group of Experts on Aviation Safety, Security and Assistance (GEASA) was convened to create such an action plan and to define issues and resolutions that would enhance the safety and security of civil aviation systems in the region.

1.3 Canada is the current chair of the GEASA and held the first meeting (GEASA/1) on April 4-5, 2002, in Cancun, Mexico. The objective of this meeting was to establish the Terms of Reference for the GEASA. Twenty-three participants from nine countries (including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)) and four international organizations and financial institutions met in Cancun for this meeting. See attached Appendix A.

2. Discussion

2.1 States in attendance at GEASA/1 meeting reviewed the terms of reference to tailor them to properly reflect the region's needs. The FAA's recommendations focused on ensuring that GEASA didn't duplicate work currently in progress in the region by considering all initiatives already underway and using GEASA as a vehicle to promote them, as appropriate. The group concurred with this viewpoint, which is reflected in the terms of reference.

2.2 Editorial changes to the terms of reference were adopted to:

- Reflect an **action-oriented approach**. The group agreed that GEASA should proceed with activities and initiatives where it has the influence, authority and resources to do so. Ministerial involvement will be solicited when high-level involvement is required to support operational level initiative and activities;
- Emphasize the **complementary nature** of GEASA in relation to the work of other international agencies and existing aviation safety and security projects and initiatives. GEASA/1 was unanimous in that avoiding duplication of effort was an important consideration; and
- Establish the philosophy that GEASA as a group can create **synergy** in the enhancement promotion of aviation safety and security activities in the Region.

2.3 Participating States had the opportunity to contribute to modifying the terms of reference but it was also clearly stated that those States unable to participate in the first meeting would always be welcome to contribute as the GEASA continues to develop. To this end, the final meeting report was translated into Portuguese for Brazil who was unable to attend, as was the case for many other States, due to FIDAE that was held the same week.

2.4 Other issues discussed at GEASA/1 included identification of resource funding from multi-lateral development banks, which included a presentation from the Inter-American Development Bank; examples of projects that GEASA could support; and recognition that GEASA could also have a complementary role in the exchange of technical aviation safety and security information, awareness material and training aids.

2.5 The final report for GEASA/1 is available from Transport Canada. The next meeting will be October 24-25 in either Costa Rica or Jamaica.

3. Conclusion

3.1 It is important to underscore that GEASA/1 agreed to and emphasized that States would best be served by GEASA if it supported and complemented efforts already underway in the region.

3.2 The FAA encourages all States, those who attended the first meeting and those who could not, to participate in the next GEASA meeting. As noted in the introduction, Ministers of Transportation from all States signed the declaration that called for the establishment of a mechanism that would enhance and maintain aviation safety and security in the region. GEASA has the potential of providing the political will lacking in many countries to implement and sustain necessary changes.

Appendix A

GEASA Meeting
April 4-5, 2002, Cancun, Mexico

NAME/Title	ORGANIZATION
Merlin Preuss Director General of Civil Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Robert Shuter Director, International Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Gilles Bourgeois Deputy Director, International Aviation	CANADA Transport Canada
Elizabeth Leiva Senior Adviser International Relations	CANADA/WHTI Executive Committee
Cnel. (Nav.) Felix A. Tornoni Director General de Aviacion Civil	URUGUAY Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Mario Amestoy Doufour Presidente	URUGUAY Camara Uruguaya de Turismo
Miguel Ramos Representative of Costa Rica to the Council of ICAO	COSTA RICA Direccion General de Aviacion Civil
Capt. Rodrigo Brenes Inspector de Operaciones	ACSA Agencia CentroAmericana de Seguridad Aeronautica
Michael E. Daniel Manager, International Programs	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
John A. Barbagallo Assistant Manager, International Programs	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Bonnie Ahumada International Aviation Operations Specialist	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Mayte Ashby International Aviation Operations Specialist	UNITED STATES Federal Aviation Administration
Lt. Col. Oscar Derby Deputy Director General	JAMAICA Civil Aviation Authority
Maj. George Kates Inspector Safety/Security	JAMAICA Airports Authority
Manuel Abundio Maldonado E. Director Interventor	GUATEMALA Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil

Noel Hurtarte González Sub-Gerente de Seguridad Aeroportuaria	GUATEMALA Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Juan Luis Barrios Quan	GUATEMALA Servicios Aereos Profesionales
Luis Samayo A. Hamel	GUATEMALA DGAC
Cap. Mauro R. Gomez Peralta Damirón Director, Direccion de Control	MEXICO Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil
Sergio Paris Mendoza Adviser, Air Navigation	COLOMBIA Aeronautica Civil Unidad Administrativa Especial
John H. Viera Director of Civil Aviation	SURINAME Dept. of Civil Aviation
Asako Yamamoto Multilateral Investment Fund	IDB Inter-American Development Bank
Raymond Ybarra Regional Director	ICAO ICAO –North American, Central American and Caribbean Office