MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, 4-8 April 2016

Agenda Item 2.5: Airport Excellence (APEX) in Security Programme

AIRPORT EXCELLENCE IN SECURITY (APEX) PROGRAMME

(Presented by the Secretariat on behalf of ACI World)

SUMMARY
Airports Council International has created a new programme; Airport Excellence (APEX) in Security, with the aim of promoting more secure airport operations worldwide. This paper provides information about the APEX programme and seeks support from States.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The meeting is invited to note that the APEX in Security programme can help airports to improve the level of compliance with global standards and recommended practices and national requirements; and encourage States to support the APEX programme, either through cooperation with reviews at their own airports, or through the provision of experts to reviews in other States.

REFERENCE(S):

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The 38th Session of the ICAO Assembly, in its A38-15, Appendix H, Declaration of Aviation Security, urged Member States to provide technical assistance in cooperation with other States, international organizations and industry partners.

1.2   The APEX in Security programme supports both ACI's mission to promote more secure airport operations through international cooperation with aviation stakeholders and airports worldwide and the aims of the Assembly Declaration on Aviation Security.

1.3   APEX in Security builds on the success of ACI's flagship airport safety programme, Airport Excellence (APEX) in Safety, which has just completed its 50th review. Like APEX in Safety, the programme provides a peer review process between airports and provides advice on best practices and areas for improvement.

2.   BACKGROUND

2.1   As air traffic and passenger numbers continue to rise at a steady rate, and there is a real and evolving threat to the aviation system from terrorism, the aviation community must do more to improve the level of security at airports worldwide.

2.2   The mission of Airports Council International (ACI) is to promote the collective interest of the world's airports and the communities they serve and to promote professional excellence in airport operations and management. Security is a top priority.

2.3   ACI, pursuing its mission of promoting more secure airport operations, in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), aviation stakeholders and airports worldwide, has developed the Airport Excellence (APEX) in Security initiative.

2.4   APEX in Security is based on ICAO Annex 17 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS), guidance material from Doc8973 and ACI best practices. It combines the mandate for regulatory compliance with the actual day to day operational needs of airports to maximize operational efficiency while enhancing the standard of security.

2.5   Moreover, APEX in Security provides a review tailored to the individual needs of airports and proposes effective solutions which will lead to improving the security standing of the airports who participate in the Programme.

2.6   APEX in Security is fully aligned with the aims of the ICAO Implementation Support and Development – Security Programme (ISD-SEC), and the AFI SECFAL initiative for the improvement of security and facilitation in Africa.

3.   THE APEX PROGRAMME

3.1   Following the request of an airport for assistance, an APEX Security Review is carried out by a team of experts, ensuring the confidentiality of data at all stages. The Security Review is built upon results of a self-assessment questionnaire, aiming to understand the airport's legal, managerial and operational environment, in order to prepare the on-site assessment.

3.2   The review includes an assessment of current practices, a gap analysis against internationally recognized best practices, identification of recommended solutions and the design of an action plan to help the airport optimize its security performance.

3.3   The number of APEX Security Review Team members depends on the complexity of the assessment requested. The team, led by an ACI World representative or his designate, may include an ACI Regional Office Security representative, an ICAO-designated security expert, one or more Security Partners and other subject matter experts as required, under the supervision of an ACI Team Leader.

3.4   The Security Review is performed on a non-remunerative basis; the host airport covers only the cost of direct expenses.

3.5   The host airport also receives ACI support to achieve the goals set in the resulting action plan. Various means of assistance are available, such as access to pools of experts, training, workshops, seminars, working groups, at local, regional and international level.

3.6   States will benefit from an increased level of compliance with national regulation, and applicable SARPS. The Programme will also provide a valuable insight into trends in the security standing of airports to help identify global training and assistance needs, with goal of improving aviation security worldwide.

3.7   The success of the programme relies on the support of many stakeholders, including;

- Airports for the provision of security expertise on review teams and advice on best practices;
- States to support the reviews taking place, provide input and foster a collaborative approach;
- Appropriate authorities who may volunteer to be part of a review of an airport in another country;
- ICAO for regional and headquarters support and participation; and
- Regional organizations for advice, input and to help identify airports in need of assistance.

4.   STATUS

4.1   The APEX in Security programme was first presented as a concept at the first Steering Committee Meeting of the AFI SECFAL Plan in Maputo, Mozambique in May 2015.

4.2   In February 2016, the ICAO Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supporting establishing the scope of its cooperation in support of the APEX programme. The programme itself was developed during 2015 and has completed its first review in March 2016 in Mauritius.

4.3   A further pilot is planned for 2016, followed by the rollout of a full programme.

3.   ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

a) note that the APEX in Security programme can help airports to improve the level of compliance with SARPS and national requirements;

b) encourage States to support the APEX programme, either through cooperation with reviews at their own airports, or through the provision of experts to reviews in other States.

END