DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Sixth Meeting (DGCA-MID/6)
(Abu Dhabi, UAE, 1-3 November 2022)

Agenda Item 3: **Global and Regional Developments**

ICAO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INNOVATION

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of the actions undertaken under the scope of the implementation of Resolution A40-27 - Innovation in Aviation and highlights upcoming initiatives of relevance to the Middle East Region, which will span across the 2023-2025 triennium.

Action by the meeting is detailed at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

Assembly Resolution A40-27 - Innovation in Aviation
ICAO Business Plan 2023-2025
ICAO Secretariat Innovation Strategy

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has played an essential role in supporting the development of a safe and innovative aviation sector for the past 75 years. The emergence of disruptive concepts and new entrants require the reinforcement of ICAO's support in liaising with the industry and fostering the deployment of innovations. In particular, the adoption of Resolution A40-27 *Innovation in Aviation* at the 40th Session of the Assembly set the path towards a resilient and innovative international civil aviation, while requiring the involvement of the Organization as a whole and the engagement of traditional and new aviation stakeholders.

2. **DISCUSSION**

2.1   ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation

2.1.1   Following the adoption of Resolution A40-27: Innovation in Aviation during the 40th Session of the Assembly, ICAO has accelerated measures to support the global international civil aviation sector in taking timely action to monitor and evaluate innovations, in a way that no country will be left behind, while supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.1.2   This Resolution encourages experience sharing on innovation between Member States, along with the reinforcement of the relationship between ICAO and States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the relevant United Nations system entities. It also sets a goal related to ICAO processes and working methods to fully support the consideration of innovation in all the activities led by the Organization.

2.1.3   In this context, the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation (available at https://www.icao.int/innovation/Pages/default.aspx) has been endorsed in April 2022 by the ICAO Secretary General. The document describes the ambition and objectives for innovation within the Organization, in accordance with the goals and directives set by ICAO Assembly Resolutions and ICAO Strategic Objectives. The strategy and associated 12-month implementation plan build on the work traditionally and continuously undertaken to integrate innovation in all ICAO activities and processes in a streamlined and coordinated manner. However, the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation forms a first step in the consolidation of ICAO's work on innovation and will be subject to evolution, as the Organization gains maturity on the topic.

2.2   Main activities of the 2020-2022 triennium

2.2.1   ICAO undertook several activities and initiatives related to the implementation of Resolution A40-27. Two meetings of the Industry Consultative Forum (ICF) were held on June 2021 and March 2022. They allowed innovators to share information about their latest developments and strategic insights on innovations that could be applied to the aviation sector. Recommendations from the ICF will enable the Organization to develop well-informed policies and carry out innovative implementation support initiatives.

2.2.2   The ICAO 2022 Innovation Fair addressed the theme of "Innovation for Enhanced Resilience in International Civil Aviation". The Fair featured a series of panel discussions, SkyTalks and an exhibition covering a large range of innovations contributing to a sustainable and resilient future for international civil aviation. The event is available on-demand on ICAO TV: https://www.icao.tv/icao-innovation-fair.

2.2.3   The Innovation Fair also considered regional perspectives and allowed the various ICAO Regional Offices to take part in these exchanges. In this framework, the ICAO Middle-East (MID) Regional Office held a webinar on 29 August 2022 with senior decision-makers and experts from Kingdom of Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. They showcased regional examples of innovation in aviation, associated with implemented approaches and management techniques. The conversation also provided an outlook into deployed innovative solutions or processes, their challenges and their potential to address the ICAO Strategic Objectives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The webinar is available here: https://www.icao.tv/innovation-webinar-series/season:2/videos/innovation-icao-regional-innovation-webinar-mid-office.

2.3   Approach for the 2023-2025 triennium

2.3.1   ICAO is committed to support the deployment of innovations and key initiatives for the benefit of the aviation community. Innovation has been firmly embedded in the ICAO Business Plan 2023-2025. As a result, the Organization will continue to support its Member States and the Council in the implementation of Resolution A40-27 and relevant action taken by the 41st Session of the Assembly under Agenda Item 23: Innovation in Aviation. In particular, opportunities for experience and information sharing between ICAO stakeholders will be reinforced through high-level events and complementary actions.

2.3.2   Member States will be encouraged to take part in upcoming activities and engage with innovators by the means of the Webinar Series, Roundtables or the Innovation Fair. The global competition on innovation launched on 26 September 2022 is also an opportunity to expand ICAO's outreach and visibility to a younger generation, and advocate aviation as the sector where innovations abound.

2.3.3   The ICAO Innovation Workshop will be launched in 2023 and will support ICAO's Member States in understanding the regulatory challenges and possible solutions to stimulate innovation in aviation. It will also represent a space where all aviation stakeholders will be able to identify themes of common interest and together define appropriate answers to ease the implementation of innovative concepts and their integration to the traditional aviation ecosystem. Member States are invited to contribute to the workshop content and to identify innovating organizations and companies that could illustrate regional initiatives and particularities related to innovation in aviation.

2.3.4   As per Resolution A40-27, the development and implementation of new regulatory methods to better evaluate and assess the applications of innovations will be key for the Organization. An independent assessment on innovation will contribute to this ambition, with the aim to review ICAO's current practices, formalize expectations and identify gaps in the context of the four dimensions of innovation specific to the Organization (see paragraph 2 of the Working Paper A41-WP/42 *Report on the implementation of Assembly Resolution A40-27 – Innovation in Aviation*, available at https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a41/Documents/WP/wp_042_en.pdf.

2.3.5   ICAO will continue its mission to support its Member States and to facilitate the deployment of innovative technologies and processes. The continued implementation of A40-27 and associated initiatives contribute to the integration of innovation in the approach to regulation, for an efficient, sustainable and resilient civil aviation.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The Member States are invited to:

a) note the work undertaken since the 40th Session of the Assembly, as described in section 2.1;

b) consider their involvement in the actions outlined for the 2023-2025 triennium, detailed in section 2.3;

c) in particular, contribute to the design of the ICAO Innovation Workshop by identifying organizations that could illustrate regional initiatives and particularities related to innovation in aviation.

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