**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**
**MIDDLE EAST OFFICE**

**ICAO REGIONAL FACILITATION (FAL) IMPLEMENTATION WEBINAR**

*(Virtual, 12 – 13 April 2022)*

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

### I.   GENERAL

### 1.1   Place and Duration

1.1.1    The ICAO Regional Facilitation (FAL) Implementation Webinar was successfully held virtually, *12 – 13 April 2022*, using Zoom.

### 1.2   Attendance

1.2.1    The Webinar was attended by a total of fifty six (56) participants from eleven (11) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab of Emirates, United States of America and Yemen), six (6) International Organizations (ACAO, ACI, AFCAC, IATA, INTERPOL, and UNOCT) and two (2) ASTCs Jeddah and Manama.

### 1.3   Opening

1.3.1    Mr. Mohamed Abubaker Al Farea, Regional Director, ICAO MID Regional Office, opened the Webinar, welcomed all participants and thanked ACAO for providing the interpretation service. Mr. Al Farea highlighted the significant growth in aircraft movements and passenger traffic being experienced in the Middle East Region, which places an increased demand on the facilitation of civil aviation. Mr. Al Farea reiterated that an equal footing of Security and Facilitation means recognizing the importance of enhancing global civil aviation security and facilitation at the same time, understanding that both are just two sides of the same coin.

### 1.4   Officers and Secretariat

1.4.1    Mrs. Janet Chemeli, Facilitation Officer - Facilitation Section, ICAO Headquarters was the main facilitator supported by Mr. Hussain Qabbani and Mrs. Samiha Al Busaidi, Regional Officers Aviation Security and Facilitation (RO/ASF), ICAO Middle East Office.

1.5      **Agenda**

1.5.1            The Agenda was developed around the main following topics:

- Annex 9: Mandate, Description & Latest Developments;
- ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP ); and
- Passenger Data Exchange Programmes

1.5.2            The Agenda/Work Programme and the presentations delivered during the Webinar are available at the ICAO MID Regional Website: https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/2022/FAL%20Webinar.aspx

## II.      OBJECTIVE

2.1            The main objective of the Webinar was to update States on developments in ICAO's FAL Programme, with a particular focus on its work programme for the current triennium and issues of common interest to States, such as compliance/implementation issues related to Annex 9 ─ *Facilitation* to the Chicago Convention, Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data exchange programmes, inadmissible persons and deportees, access to air transport by persons with disabilities, COVID-19 Developments and Experience with Testing/ Vaccination Certificates.

## III.      SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS

3.1            The Webinar was comprised of two days of presentations (12-13 April 2022) presented by ICAO, State representatives, IATA, INTERPOL, and UNOCT covering all facilitation topics of the agenda and providing feedback on implementation matters.

3.2            The first day of the Webinar provided an introduction to ICAO Annex 9 requirements under Chicago Convention, latest global and regional developments and current issues and updates of Annex 9, States' responsibilities under article 38, Facilitation Panel and Amendment process, response to State letters, and introduction to the Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD).

3.3            The second day of the Webinar focused on ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP), the Testing and Vaccination Certificates and Passenger Data Exchange Programmes API/PNR. Saudi Arabia shared their experience on Document Issuance (MRTD/e-passports /Biometrics) and United Arab Emirates shared their experience on Testing and Vaccination Certificates. The INTERPOL delivered a presentation on Integration of INTERPOL Tools with API/PNR to Intercept/Interdict FTFs on Border, UNOCT delivered a presentation on UN CT Travel Programme and IATA presented API, Interactive API, PNR and ETS, the Role of Air Carriers.

3.4            The Webinar was successful in all its intended aspects, particularly in identifying Facilitation requirements, implementation challenges and sources of assistance to help States and other stakeholders in the coordination and delivery of Facilitation measures.  The participants appreciated the material delivered by the speakers and actively contributed their views and experience relating to Facilitation.

3.5            Participants were familiarized of the Facilitation materials available on the main ICAO website and via the ICAO Secure Portal.  Participants were encouraged to remain in close contact with ICAO (HQ and MID Office) and IATA to seek support and guidance on issues relating to the implementation of Facilitation measures.

3.6       As further assistance from ICAO, participants were made aware of the forthcoming 17th Symposium and Exhibition on ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP), 13 - 15 September 2022 at ICAO, Montreal, Canada.

**IV.    CLOSING**

4.1       In closing, Mr. Hussain Qabbani thanked the participants for their presence and encouraged them to implement Annex 9 requirements and enhance the coordination among states to share best practices.

4.2       The participants thanked ICAO for organizing such a fruitful Webinar.

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