



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Security policy

**SUPPORT OF ICAO SECRETARIAT REALIGNMENT (SECURITY COMPONENTS),
SECURITY PROGRAMMES AND SECURITY POLICY MAKING MECHANISMS**

(Presented by Canada and the United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ICAO has taken essential steps to enhance global aviation security and prevent acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation. These steps include: a new structure within the ICAO Secretariat that consolidates security programmes under one branch; developing a proposed new security action plan; and increasing support for existing and new ICAO aviation security initiatives.

Action: The Assembly is invited to reflect on the substantial steps taken in recent months to raise the prominence of security within ICAO and to support the recommendations contained in this Working Paper.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective B — Security – <i>Enhance Global Aviation Security</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable
<i>References:</i>	A37-WP/17 — Implementation Support and Development – Security Programme (ISD – Security) A37-WP/18 — ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS) – Strategic Plan of Action 2011-2016 A37-WP/19 — Consolidated Statement of Continuing ICAO Policies Related to the Safeguarding of International Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference A37-WP/32 — Implementation and Evolution of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Canada and the United States continue to fully support ICAO's objective to develop a safe, secure and sustainable international civil aviation system through cooperation among its Member States. In particular, our States applaud the Secretary General's recent initiative to revise the structure of the Secretariat, which included consolidating aviation security (AVSEC) components under an AVSEC Branch within the Air Transport Bureau. We are confident this restructuring will not only align security resources within ICAO, but will also maximize the efficient use of those resources in providing appropriate and effective standards, audit activities, guidance and assistance to Member States to help mitigate the terrorist threat to international civil aviation.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Since his appointment in 2009, the Secretary General has taken significant steps forward in emphasizing security as an essential component of the work and mission of ICAO. This includes revising the structure of the ICAO Secretariat so all security components are consolidated under one branch and appointing an experienced leader as AVSEC Branch Chief, promoting greater synergy between security and facilitation programmes, sponsoring regional AVSEC conferences to garner political commitment to enhance AVSEC measures, and working closely with Member States to ensure AVSEC initiatives will be funded for the next triennium.

2.2 Over the past triennium, the ICAO AVSEC Panel and its working groups have made substantial recommendations to the Council, resulting in a renewed AVSEC action plan that sets a steady, yet flexible, course for addressing new and emerging threats. These recommendations emphasize the importance of aviation security and promote: innovative, effective and efficient security approaches; the sharing of information among Member States to raise awareness of threats and security trends relevant to international civil aviation operations; global compliance and the establishment of sustainable and effective AVSEC oversight; the improvement of human factors and fostering of a security culture; the development of mutual recognition for AVSEC processes; and the importance of security among States and stakeholders.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Canada and the United States are encouraged by the ICAO initiative, supported by the AVSEC Panel, to update the Security Strategic Objectives, by creating the ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS). By consolidating security objectives into key focus areas, ICAO can now implement a strategic plan of action that establishes a realistic and flexible course for its AVSEC Branch over the next five years.

3.2 As security audits conducted by ICAO are a critical element of the Organization's security activities, it is essential that ICAO use the results of the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) as the basis for taking affirmative and responsive action to support States, when appropriate, in the resolution of identified deficiencies, and to prevent the exploitation of known vulnerabilities that could harm any country, directly or indirectly. Canada and the United States support the decision taken during the 189th Session of the Council to establish a mechanism to ensure that timely corrective actions are taken by States in response to validated and unresolved Significant Security Concerns. Likewise, Canada and the United States support greater transparency in the USAP processes, and encourage greater disclosure and transparency of security audit results among Member States, particularly when deficiencies that may put the global aviation network at risk are not promptly or effectively corrected.

3.3 Canada and the United States remain committed to supporting the ICAO Implementation Support and Development (ISD) Programme which aims to provide technical assistance and training to civil aviation authorities to strengthen the security network that protects global aviation. In the coming triennium, we look to ICAO to implement a methodology that will facilitate the provision of assistance in a way that ensures its limited resources are allocated based on risk, threat, and sustainability. We also look to ICAO to serve as a liaison between States in need and States that are able to provide assistance, in a manner that complements bilateral capacity development efforts and prevents the duplication of efforts.

3.4 With respect to the AVSEC-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of Annex 17 — *Security*, ICAO's strengths in developing and assessing the effectiveness of critical Standards are evident in the work carried out by the AVSEC Panel and its working groups. The Council and the Committee on Unlawful Interference, with the Secretariat and support from the AVSEC Panel, utilize collaboration and innovation to strengthen AVSEC-related SARPs in a manner that is risk-based, embraces the philosophy of a layered approach to security, and recognizes that the capacity to implement and sustain these baseline measures will vary among States. This Panel continues to offer States the opportunity to share expertise and experiences, openly and respectfully discuss topical issues, and examine the merits and potential impacts of proposed Standards and other measures. This collaborative and collegial approach of the AVSEC Panel ensures that the SARPs of Annex 17, as well as its companion *Security Manual for Safeguarding Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference* (Doc 8973), are appropriate and avoid a 'one size fits all' approach. This practice is evident in the recommendations made in the AVSEC Panel's proposed Amendment 12 to Annex 17, which Canada and the United States, and many other Member States, endorse in its entirety.

3.5 Canada and the United States, as well as other Member States, support ICAO's AVSEC programmes by contributing human and financial resources to advance the development of important initiatives, exchange information, promote best practices, and promote global compliance with established security Standards. Recognizing the grave impact of and the far-reaching consequences resulting from security incidents, we encourage other Member States to continue to provide ICAO with the necessary resources and expertise to achieve our mutually beneficial goals of a secure international civil aviation system and a viable and thriving air transport industry.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 ICAO is poised to become more effective, efficient and proactive in raising the standards of aviation security worldwide through the realignment of its AVSEC resources, experienced leadership in the international AVSEC community, and continued financial support and sharing of subject matter expertise from Member States.

4.2 Recent decisions made by the Council in support of AVSEC initiatives, developed by the AVSEC Panel and its working groups, will provide ICAO with clear direction and focus to meet its security objectives.

4.3 ICAO's success in anticipating and countering threats to aviation security should be further supported by Member States who can provide necessary resources and continued contributions to AVSEC initiatives beyond what is allocated through the regular budget.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Member States are:

- a) encouraged to provide assistance, resources and capacity development information to ICAO to support on-going efforts to assess the global implementation of baseline AVSEC measures;
- b) encouraged to continue to recognize the AVSEC Panel as the appropriate forum of technical expertise for advancing improvements and related initiatives in the aviation security domain;
- c) urged to support greater transparency of security audit results introduced under the USAP;
- d) encouraged to recognize and endorse the flexibility and appropriateness of the proposed Amendment 12 to Annex 17, as developed by the AVSEC Panel; and
- e) encouraged to provide ICAO's AVSEC programmes with voluntary contributions of human and financial resources, to the greatest extent possible, to further the reach, effectiveness and ultimate success of the AVSEC programmes.

— END —