INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14:   **Aviation security**

DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN AVIATION SECURITY SINCE THE 33RD SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE *AVIATION SECURITY PLAN OF ACTION*

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

Australia has continued to develop stronger policies in relation to aviation security consistent with ICAO recommendations. The announcement of the Enhanced Aviation Security Package and the commitment of members to the USAP team are examples of Australia meeting international obligations. Australia considers that ICAO's security programmes need continued support from all States

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

Since the 33rd Session of the Assembly, Australia has continued to develop strong aviation security policy in line with ICAO recommendations to ensure the security and protection of Australian and international aviation interests. These developments include new legislation, the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*, and the commitment of approximately USD$113.6m towards the strengthening of aviation transport security in Australia and internationally.

2.   **THE ENHANCED AVIATION SECURITY PACKAGE (EASP)**

On 4 December 2003, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Honourable John Anderson MP, announced the EASP and committed the Australian Government to spend approximately A$120m on aviation security. This money will be spent on a number of important initiatives including:

·   the establishment of a USD$24.5m grant programme which will assist eligible rural, regional and remote aerodromes facilitate basic security measures;
·   the installation of hardened cockpit doors on regular passenger and charter aircraft with 30 seats or more;

- the construction of a facility in Brisbane to trial the world-first neutron technology developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) that promises rapid detection of explosives and other threats in air cargo more effectively than conventional X-ray systems;
- the appointment of an Inspector of Transport Security who will investigate major security incidents in both the aviation and maritime industries; and
- the commitment to work with the Australian aviation industry to extend arrangements for checked baggage (hold baggage) screening.

In addition to these commitments, Australia is also engaged in regional capacity building; working with governments to strengthen transport security within the Asia Pacific region. Australia supports efforts to coordinate capacity building needs, and will be delivering targeted projects. Australian transport security experts will be posted to locations within the region. As well, Australia is developing a discrete assistance project with the Government of Indonesia, to ensure compliance with ICAO aviation security standards at the airport level.

3.   SECURING AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL SKIES

On 23 August 2004, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Honourable John Anderson MP, announced USD$33.7m boost to security at 146 of Australia's regional airports. The funding will provide:

- Increased threat response capacity for regional airports with the establishment of four eight-person Australian Federal Police (AFP) Protective Service Regional Rapid Deployment Teams;
- Regional Airports with the ability to undertake on-demand passenger screening in response to a specific threat;
- Additional security training for airline and airport staff undertaken by staff from the Office of Transport Security (OTS);
- Joint training exercises with the AFP and State and Territory police;
- Trials of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in a number of regional airports which will be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the OTS Operations Centre;
- Additional funding to fit smaller aircraft with hardened cockpit doors; and
- Public awareness campaigns to encourage the public to report suspicious activity around airports.

This announcement boosts the Australian Government's commitment to aviation security spending on regional aviation to USD$58.2m and for aviation as a whole to more than USD$113.6m.

4.   AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSAL
SECURITY AUDIT PROGRAMME (USAP)

Australia remains committed to the USAP and continues to provide both financial and human resources. Recently, the Australian Government has also committed two members of the Office of Transport Security to assist with ICAO's USAP, and further staff will be nominated to attend ICAO audit training courses in the future.

5.   AUSTRALIA'S VIEW OF THE WAY FORWARD

Over the period of 2002-2004, Australia has contributed in excess of US$250,000 to ICAO through the AVSEC mechanism to assist in the development of the *Aviation Security Plan of Action*, exceeding the ICAO suggested amount. Australia observes that ICAO has been less successful in securing voluntary funding from other States.

Aviation security in general and the ICAO *Aviation Security Plan of Action* in particular are matters requiring concerted international action. The successful implementation of the *Aviation Security Plan of Action* relies on Member States making financial commitments to ICAO.

6.   CONCLUSION

Australia continues to provide strong support for ICAO's role in aviation security and has fulfilled its financial commitment to the voluntary aviation security fund. In addition to the financial commitment, Australia has also committed two accredited auditors to the USAP.

Australia is meeting its responsibility to ICAO's voluntary aviation security fund and strongly urges other states to do the same to meet the security challenge that faces us all.

7.   FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The *Aviation Security Plan of Action* depends on continued voluntary contributions.

8.   ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is invited to:

(a)   note the recent developments in Australia's aviation security arrangements;

(b)   note the strong support from Australia for ICAO's aviation security programmes, including its contribution under the AVSEC mechanism; and

(c)   urge other States, that have yet to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the AVSEC mechanism.

— END —