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WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Agenda Item 39: Facilitation

**LACAC PROPOSAL TO PUBLISH A MANUAL OF FACILITATION PROCEDURES AND
GUIDING ELEMENTS FOR THE COORDINATION OF FAL/AVSEC PROCEDURES**

(Presented by the 22 (*) Member States of
the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper reports on the new joint working modality used within the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) to coordinate Facilitation and Security (FAL/AVSEC) matters. It requests the publication of a “Facilitation Handbook” as an essential tool for application in each area related to air transport facilitation (customs, immigration, health and security). It also requests guiding elements to coordinate working procedures on matters related to air transport facilitation and airport security, FAL/AVSEC.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) note the work being carried out by LACAC as a whole in the area of FAL/AVSEC; and
- b) request the Secretariat to give priority to making the Facilitation Manual available to States in all of the official languages of the Organization.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	Nil
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Nil
<i>References:</i>	Doc 7300 - <i>Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944)</i> Annex 9 - <i>Facilitation</i> Annex 17 - <i>Security</i> Documents concerning the subject

¹ English and Spanish versions provided by LACAC

(*) Argentina, Aruba (Netherlands), Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On occasion of the 17th Ordinary Assembly of LACAC (Panama City, Panama, 6-10 November 2006), the Strategic Plan of Activities for the Biennium 2007 – 2008 was approved, modifying the work structure and entrusting the President and Vice Presidents with leading civil aviation panels specialised in the areas of **air transport and policy, airport management and environment, facilitation and airport security (FAL/AVSEC), training, and air navigation and safety**, which operate as “**focal points**” under the coordination of the Executive Committee.

1.2 According to the new working procedure, “focal points” establish the priority items to be included on the working agenda for the meetings and prepare work schedules and working papers for the discussion of these items, notifying the Secretariat accordingly.

1.3 It has also been deemed necessary to address issues relating to facilitation and security jointly. Therefore, a single working group has been created to take charge of analysing and developing topics concerning these two subjects, since previously there was a group that was responsible for addressing AVSEC matters only.

1.4 This new Group held its first meeting on 30 June 2007 in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. As a first step, it drew up its terms of reference, which, among other things, stipulate that it will undertake the establishment of a regional policy on international civil aviation facilitation and security against acts of unlawful interference that will make it possible to coordinate, cooperate in and harmonise the activities carried out by LACAC member States in those areas. To that end, it is necessary to bear in mind the balance that should exist between air transport facilitation and security; create a regional mechanism that will make it possible to have a basis for the “common application” of the standards contained in Annexes 9 and 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; establish a regional training policy on FAL/AVSEC; set up a mechanism for coordination on, and cooperation in, the acquisition, exchange and donation of facilitation and security equipment; develop a basic methodology that will enable States to define the levels of threat and their harmonisation; develop a mechanism for following up on, and exchanging, the results of ICAO FAL/AVSEC audits in the States of the region; and assess the regional situation as regards the quality control of FAL/AVSEC services.

2. MANUAL OF FACILITATION PROCEDURES

2.1 It was noted during the meeting of the LACAC FAL/AVSEC Group and after the 72nd Meeting of the LACAC Executive Committee (Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 31 July to 1 August 2007) that the States required guidelines on facilitation. Although ICAO has published the Security Manual (Doc. 8973), no Facilitation Manual has been prepared thus far. This latter document is highly important for the efforts of the States and of the region in general, particularly LACAC, and for that reason there is a pressing need for its availability.

2.2 It would, therefore, be desirable for the Assembly to take the necessary steps to instruct the Secretariat to give priority to making the Facilitation Manual available to the States in all of the official languages of the Organization.