



WORKING PAPER

SECOND HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY (HLCAS/2)

Montréal, 29 to 30 November 2018

Agenda Item 3: Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP)

**THE ROLE OF THE ICAO UNIVERSAL SECURITY AUDIT PROGRAMME IN ENSURING
THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE GLOBAL AVIATION SECURITY PLAN**

(Presented by Austria on behalf of the European Union and its Member States¹, the other Member States of the European Civil Aviation Conference²)

SUMMARY

An effectively-functioning ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) is essential to the successful implementation of the objectives of the GASeP as well as serving the purpose of providing a due level of confidence in global aviation security. A substantial review of the USAP is therefore timely, and States should be encouraged to provide high-quality auditors in the meantime to support the implementation of the USAP.

Action by the High-level Conference on Aviation Security is in paragraph 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The proof of the sustainability of the aviation security improvements envisaged through the delivery of the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) will be dependent on the ability to measure the successful delivery of these improvements. The Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) will be an essential part of this, and so it is vital that the USAP provides confidence among States and industry of the state of effective and sustainable implementation of security measures as defined in ICAO Annex 17.

2. THE USAP AND GASEP

2.1 The establishment of the USAP is one of ICAO's major achievements. It is the only worldwide applied oversight and compliance indication programme for aviation security, based on accepted common methodology/auditing tools and performed under the same audit principles. Most relevantly to the GASeP it provides the only universal means of measuring whether the aims of the GASeP related to the effective implementation of Annex 17 Standards are really being achieved.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

² Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

2.2 More generally, the USAP needs to provide States with confidence in the security of the international aviation system; and where there are problems, to enable the relevant and necessary resources to be directed at the problems identified. By increasing confidence in the generality of aviation security, the USAP should also contribute to the application of a universal approach by decreasing the need for States to request additional measures except in some specific situations.

3. **CURRENT ISSUES WITH THE USAP**

3.1 Full implementation of the Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) to the USAP began in 2015. With the launch of the GAsEP in November 2017, it is timely to review the function of the USAP to ensure that it is capable of providing sustainably the high level of confidence on the real implementation of security measures on the ground, and achieving the wider objectives set out above.

3.2 A Secretariat Study Group on the USAP has been established, and chaired by the ICAO Secretariat, but to date it has mostly considered issues of detail such as the wording of Protocol Questions. However, during these discussions, various parties have commented on the need to explore more substantial issues relating to the USAP, its objectives and scope. These have included matters such as the need for: consistent interpretation of Annex 17 Standards by all auditors; a more operational focus reflecting the reality of security on the ground and a more self-explanatory representation thereof; outcomes to be reflected in Corrective Improvement Plans rather than numerical results; a formalised risk-based approach to the audit process including the prioritisation of audits and of the choice of the USAP-CMA activity; more specific information on the implementation of measures that enables targeting of capacity development resources; the supply of and quality of auditors; the training of auditors and other matters.

4. **ACTION BY THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE**

4.1 The High-level Conference on Aviation Security is invited to

- a) Request ICAO, working with Member States and international organisations, to bring forward proposals for a fundamental review of the objectives and methodology of the USAP for decision by the 40th Assembly, aimed at ensuring the USAP plays a full part in the success of the implementation of the GAsEP and in delivering confidence in the international aviation security system; and
- b) Encourage Member States to support the implementation of the USAP notably through the supply of qualified and highly-skilled auditors for the USAP.

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