Tel.:   +1 514-954-8219 ext. 6104

Ref.:   SD39/1-12/6   2 February 2012

Subject: High-level Conference on Aviation Security
(Montréal, Canada, 12 to 14 September 2012)

Action required: Advise concerning attendance and
submit registration form by 31 March 2012

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Council, at the first meeting of its 194th Session, approved the convening of a High-level Conference on Aviation Security, to be held at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada from 12 to 14 September 2012.

The goal of this Conference is to convene senior government officials and aviation stakeholders to reach global consensus and formulate recommendations on key aviation security priorities and issues to address current and emerging threats to civil aviation. The Conference will also consider progress on the implementation of the 37th Session of the Assembly Declaration on Aviation Security. The agenda for the conference is provided in Attachment A.

Please respond by e-mail (avsecconf@icao.int) or facsimile (+1 514-954-5061) no later than 31 March 2012 concerning whether your Government or Organization intends to participate and, if so, please provide the names and positions of your representatives. Information on credentials, the structure and conduct of the meeting, visa requirements, and other arrangements is provided in Attachment B. The conference registration form is provided in Attachment C. A detailed conference programme and other information for delegates will be communicated to you in due course.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

Enclosures:
A — Agenda
B — Administrative arrangements
C — Registration form

AGENDA FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY

A.   KEY ISSUES AFFECTING AVIATION SECURITY THAT REQUIRE DECISIONS

1.   Combating the insider threat
The conference will discuss the progress made by the Aviation Security Panel and its relevant working groups in further strengthening Annex 17 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), particularly Standard 4.2.6, and related guidance material to comprehensively address the insider threat while retaining the principle of 100 per cent screening of persons other than passengers.
Desired outcome: Endorsement of a common and consistent global approach to dealing with the insider threat, taking into account the recommendations of the Aviation Security Panel and discussions in Council.

2.   Enhancing air cargo security
Implementation of international baseline standards can be a way to facilitate the recognition of equivalence between the aviation security regimes of various States or regions. The conference will discuss the "cargo supply chain" and the many possible risks to the system arising from multiple supply chain participants aside from the airlines themselves, such as freight forwarders and other enterprises that engage in the shipment of cargo by air.
Desired outcome: Recommendations on a new regime to enhance air cargo security including proposals to amend Annex 17, where necessary.

3.   Ensuring the sustainability of aviation security measures - equivalence
Aviation security programmes need to be proactive and need to respond rapidly to changing threats and risks. At the same time, recognition must be given to ensuring that security measures can be sustained, as necessary, as threats and risks evolve.
Desired outcome: Recommendations to promote the sustainability of aviation security through coordinated responses to security threats and incidents, equivalence and mutual recognition of security measures between partners with clearly sophisticated security regimes, as well as optimizing the balance of security and facilitation.

4.   The evolution of the aviation security audit process - transparency
The conference will be briefed on proposals for the evolution of the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) following the conclusion of the current audit cycle at the end of 2013. The objective of these proposals will be to implement audit activities and methodology under the USAP that are most appropriate for continuing to strengthen international civil aviation security, while taking into account the principles of universality and confidentiality, and linking audit results to the provision of targeted assistance and capacity-building efforts. The conference will consider the transparency of USAP audit results, in order to provide for an appropriate balance between the need for States to be made aware of deficiencies in their jurisdiction and the interests of other States concerning those deficiencies.
Desired outcome: The conference will provide recommendations on enhanced transparency of USAP audit results with due consideration of the need to keep sensitive security information out of the public realm as a key driver to further enhancing global aviation security. The conference may also provide other recommendations on the evolution of the USAP.

5.   Capacity-building and technical assistance
The conference will examine the various capacity-building and technical assistance efforts of ICAO and Member States, and will discuss training as an important means of addressing challenges facing States in the implementation of Annex 17 SARPs.

Desired outcome: Recommendations on new and innovative means for capacity-building and technical assistance, including recognizing as preconditions for assistance the use of risk-based prioritization and readiness of a State faced with problems. The conference will also agree on actions to be taken when a State's lack of effective implementation of Annex 17 requirements poses a significant global or regional security risk.

6.   Driving technology developments and innovation

The conference will review technological developments in the aviation security field as a way to enhance effective and efficient aviation security, and consider Member States' efforts to implement technological solutions for the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs), taking into account the status of rule changes in some States to gradually remove restrictions on LAGs in cabin baggage while phasing in screening technology capable of detecting liquid explosives.

Desired outcome: Agreement on means to promote innovation in aviation security, and implementation and worldwide harmonization of technical solutions, specifically with regard to LAGs, with a view to minimizing their adverse impact on airport operations, thereby facilitating air travel.

B.   OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONFERENCE

7.   The role of the Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) Programme, Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)

The conference will discuss aviation security beyond its traditional focus on screening and access control, and consider intelligence and identity management, inter-agency cooperation and data sharing in relation to the fight against terrorism and as an aid to security. An increasing number of States have begun to require operators to provide their public authorities with API/PNR data for threat assessment purposes. However, lack of uniformity in API/PNR data exchange systems adversely affects the viability of the air transport industry and reduces the effectiveness of utilizing such data for aviation security purposes. In this regard, States are urged to ensure the participation of their authorities responsible for MRTD and API/PNR matters in the conference.

Desired outcome: Recommendations on the direction of the MRTD Programme in the next triennium, and on the need to align the various API/PNR data exchange systems that currently exist with the international data transmission standards adopted by relevant United Nations agencies, while ensuring the protection of passengers' privacy and civil liberties.

8.   Status of regional efforts in aviation security

The conference will discuss progress made in the regions to develop and implement regional aviation security action plans and/or roadmaps adopted during regional aviation security conferences held from 2010 until 2012.

Desired outcome: Acknowledgement that progress has been made to strengthen aviation security through regional cooperation, and recommendations on mechanisms for effectively managing regional aviation security.

9.   ICAO Global Risk Context Statement

The conference will be updated on the work of the Aviation Security Panel with respect to the development of an ICAO Global Aviation Security Risk Context Statement, which provides a regularly updated description of the global threat and risk environment and presents Member States with valuable security information to facilitate the continuing improvement of their National Civil Aviation Security Programmes.

Desired outcome: Worldwide endorsement of the ICAO Global Risk Context Statement for dissemination to States.

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY

ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada
12 to 14 September 2012

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Credentials
Credentials are required for the meeting and should be signed on behalf of the State or international organization concerned, by a person duly authorized to do so, giving the name and position of each member of the delegation and indicating the capacity in which he or she is to serve at the meeting as follows: Member States: Delegate, Alternate, Adviser; and non-Contracting States and international organizations: Observer. The original credentials may be sent in advance to the Secretary General or be deposited when registering on-site.

Organization
The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the *Directives of the Council Concerning the Conduct of ICAO Meetings* (Doc 7986-C/915) and the *Standing Rules of Procedure for Meetings in the Air Transport Field* (Doc 8683-AT/721). The Conference will meet in Plenary the morning of the first day and again the last day to approve the Report of the Conference. All agenda items will be dealt with in one committee to allow for the multidisciplinary nature of most of the subject matters.

Visas
In compliance with Recommended Practice 3.19 of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, Canada has dispensed with the requirement for entry visas for temporary visitors from many States. However, some nationals continue to require visas for entry into Canada. It is suggested that any participant who requires a visa take steps to obtain it in good time from the nearest Canadian authorities. Furthermore, in order to facilitate entry formalities upon arrival in Canada, it is suggested that participants carry with them a copy of the document notifying that they are representatives of their State and/or Organization at the meeting, and that they so identify themselves to the Canadian immigration authorities.

Registration and other arrangements
Online registration for the conference and additional information related to other logistic arrangements will be available on the conference website at www.icao.int/meetings/avsecconf. General information regarding accommodations and other facilities in Montréal will also be posted on the site.

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY

ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada
12 to 14 September 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

1. Name in full:
    Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Other
    _____
    First Name   Middle Name   Last Name

2. Title/Position:
    _____

3. State/Organization/Company:
    _____

4. Mailing Address:
    _____

    _____

    _____

5. Telephone Number:
    _____

    Fax Number:
    _____

    E-mail:
    _____

Date:_____   Signature:_____

Please fax or e-mail this form by 31 March 2012 to the:
Aviation Security and Facilitation Policy Section
Aviation Security Branch
Air Transport Bureau, ICAO
Facsimile: +1 514-954-5061
E-mail: avsecconf@icao.int

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