WORKING PAPER

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY (HLCAS)

Montréal, 12 to 14 September 2012

Agenda Item 2: Enhancing air cargo security

INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY FOR AIR CARGO SECURITY

(Presented by Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Airports Council International, International Air Transport Association, International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, The International Air Cargo Association, and World Customs Organization)

SUMMARY

This paper proposes that the ICAO Aviation Security (AVSEC) Panel, through its Working Group on Air Cargo Security (WGACS), develop an international air cargo and mail security-specific capacity building strategy guided by the audit results from the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP). The purpose of this strategy is to build upon existing capacity building strategies while addressing the complexities of the air cargo security environment.

The development of this strategy will encourage both Contracting States and stakeholders to support other Contracting States needing assistance to comply with strengthened ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for air cargo and mail security. The intent is also to help Contracting States and industry coordinate their support initiatives in order to reduce duplication of efforts.

Action: The High-level Conference on Aviation Security is invited to endorse the actions proposed in paragraph 2.

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The purpose of this paper is to propose that the ICAO Aviation Security (AVSEC) Panel, through its Working Group on Air Cargo Security (WGACS), develop an International Capacity Building Strategy specific to air cargo and mail security to be presented to the 38th ICAO Assembly in 2013. The Strategy would align with and reference the Key Principles on Air Cargo and Mail Security that articulate the importance of continued capacity building for those Contracting States that have limited capabilities (financial, infrastructure, technical etc.) and therefore require assistance to adequately implement the enhanced ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for air cargo security. The Strategy would seek to use the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) audit results, subject to the consent of the State(s) receiving assistance and consistent with Recommended Practice 2.4.5, to more effectively target capacity building efforts and suggest regional coordination to avoid duplication of efforts and competing training activities.

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[1] Translations provided by Canada

2.   BACKGROUND

2.1   The October 2010 attacks and recent media reports of terrorists' efforts to develop new IEDs demonstrate that commercial aviation continues to be a focus of terrorist groups. Successive terrorist plots continue to target the aviation sector making it more important than ever that States remain vigilant and urgently implement security measures to reduce vulnerabilities to aviation security. Given the highly integrated nature of the commercial aviation industry, global air cargo security continues to be an area of risk.

2.2   The ICAO Assembly, AVSEC Panel and stakeholders have recognized that the secure transport of air cargo is a critical component of barrier-free and facilitated trade. Furthermore, efforts to strengthen air cargo and mail security measures globally must be conducted as a priority in a coordinated way.

2.3   The ICAO AVSEC Panel WGACS was tasked with developing recommendations for ICAO and all Contracting States to address security gaps in air cargo, including the development of enhanced global SARPs and relevant guidance material.

2.4   At the Third Meeting of the ICAO AVSEC Panel WGACS held in Singapore from 28 to 30 May 2012, the WGACS agreed that capacity building was an important component of efforts to enhance air cargo security. As such, a sub-working group was formed to develop an International Capacity Building Strategy specific to air cargo and mail that would support the implementation of enhanced global SARPs.

3.   AN INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY FOR AIR CARGO AND MAIL SECURITY

3.1   The *ICAO Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy for Aviation Security* notes that there is a strong need as well as demand on ICAO for capacity building initiatives and that such assistance for States is vital for success. The Strategy further observes that resource demands on the organization require ICAO to manage priorities and expectations.

3.2   An International Capacity Building Strategy for Air Cargo and Mail Security would draw on the *ICAO Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy for Aviation Security*, and allow for targeted assistance for States in need. This Strategy would be guided by the USAP audit results, where air cargo and mail security has been identified as a priority need. The Strategy would include a proposal to coordinate bilateral and multilateral capacity building initiatives regionally, as well as amongst international organizations such as the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in order to align such initiatives, maximize limited resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.   The development of such a strategy would also be in line with the *ICAO Comprehensive Aviation Security Strategy (ICASS) 2011-2016*, that was endorsed at the 37th ICAO Assembly in 2010.

3.3   Industry and other actors within the air cargo environment are direct stakeholders and should also continue to take responsibility to work with key customers, consignors/shippers, contractors, suppliers and the appropriate authorities to ensure their compliance with ICAO Standards to secure the supply chain.

4.   **ACTION BY THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY**

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

a)   Endorse the development of an International Capacity Building Strategy specific to air cargo and mail security, to aid those ICAO Contracting States that require assistance to adequately implement enhanced ICAO air cargo and mail security standards; this Strategy should be aligned with the *ICAO Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy for Aviation Security*, and avoid duplication of efforts;

b)   Encourage all ICAO Contracting States to further support the Secretariat in its efforts to provide capacity building assistance based on USAP audit results, subject to the consent of the State(s) receiving assistance as per RP 2.4.5, focusing on air cargo and mail where it has been identified as a priority; and

c)   Urge other entities within the air cargo environment to continue taking action to effectively secure those sections of the supply chain in which they operate.

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