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**Sixth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation
(NACC/DCA/06)**

Nassau, Bahamas, 10-12 May 2016

**Agenda Item 3: Regional Groups
3.3 Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG)**

**ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR AND SAM AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION REGIONAL GROUP
(AVSEC/FAL/RG) ACTIVITIES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper presents information on the progress of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) projects.	
Action:	Suggested action is presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security & Facilitation
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Letter NACC60059 dated 18 March 2016, on the Invitation to the Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) – Second Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG/2) (Mexico City, Mexico, from 6 to 7 June 2016); and Invitation to the Sixth Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR/SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group AVSEC/FAL/RG/6), (Mexico City, Mexico, from 8 to 10 June 2016).• Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/5), held in Lima, Peru, from 3 to 5 June 2015, and State Letter EMX0714, dated 8 July 2015• State Letter EMX0226, dated 5 March 2015, on the Fifth Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/5)• State Letter EMX0218, dated 3 March 2015, on the Working Group Meeting on the Security Management System (SeMS) of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional (AVSEC/FAL/RG) Group, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12 to 15 May 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 The AVSEC/FAL/RG/5 meeting was held at the ICAO South America (SAM) Regional Office in Lima, Peru, from 3 to 5 June 2015. This event was attended by 52 delegates from 22 NAM/CAR and SAM States and three international organizations (CASSOS, ECCAA and IATA).

1.2 The Meeting analysed the work programme and, based on the progress and results of the implementation of the projects, as well as on its deliberations and agreements, the Terms of Reference, Programme and Working Projects were updated. The Working Group on the Strategic Plan headed by Argentina developed that plan, and its methodology will assist in achieving the efficiency and effectiveness of the projects agreed. Notwithstanding, the Meeting reminded the member States the importance of their active participation and commitment to achieve the group planned objectives for their own benefit of all the AVSEC/FAL/RG activities.

1.3 As an outstanding result of this meeting, the representatives determined that after a revision of the draft report, this should be approved by the plenary from now on. The plenary considered that approving the report at the end of the meeting will expedite the slow process of waiting response from State members; and requested to the joint Secretariat of ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices, and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) to disseminate the final report, and to elevate it to their respective entities for the consideration of advanced projects. The Meeting accepted and approved eight conclusions that are presented in the **Appendix** to this working paper.

1.4 The Meeting was preceded by a two-day Regional Seminar on Aviation Security (AVSEC/SEM), where representatives from different States shared information on several topics: regional AVSEC overview, aviation threats and safer skies, border security facilitation, multi-agency approach, security oversight and Security Management System (SeMS), experiences on SeMS implementation, cyber threats, trends and security configurations, experiences on cyberterrorism in civil aviation, travel document security and identity management, IATA Advance Passenger Information (API) system and Passenger Name Record (PNR) toolkit, among others.

2. Progress achieved since the AVSEC/FAL/RG/5 meeting

2.1 With respect to Conclusion 5/1 - *Universal Security Audit Programme and Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA)*, to date, ten of the ICAO Member States from NAM/CAR Regions have signed the two originals of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and have submitted it to the USAP-CMA Audit Section at ICAO Headquarters.

2.2 Regarding Conclusion 5/2 - *Aviation Security Management Systems programme*, States interested in implementing SeMS, that established short and medium-term objectives, may share and report to the joint Secretary of the group their pilot progress implementation during the next meeting of the group.

2.3 In respect to Conclusion 5/3 - *Coordination between States to standardize their aviation security systems audit procedures programme*, the project –coordinated by Brazil— will share information on the status to standardize the aviation security system audit procedures programme in the next meeting of the group.

2.4 Regarding Conclusion 5/4 - *Questionnaire on Facilitation and use of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs)*, and the implementation of Annex 9 – Facilitation and MRTDs Standards, the Meeting decided to extend once more the deadline to deliver to the Secretariat the questionnaire on these matters. Although some States issue MRTDs, some Eastern Caribbean States have not answered ICAO on the compliance of Standard 3.11.1 – *States shall ensure that expiration of passports that are not machine readable falls before 24 November 2015—*, or the questionnaire required by the AVSEC/FAL/RG. During the Twenty-sixth Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/26) meeting in Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago were requested to take prompt action and to respond to State Letter EMX1044.

2.5 As a result of Conclusion 5/5 - *Best Facilitation Practices Database*, the project, that gathers information on the data bases of its participant States and that is headed by Chile, will report to the next meeting of the group its results. ICAO also requested the States through State Letter EC 6/8 – 16/04 dated 27 January 2016, to return the ICAO TRIP Strategy Implementation and Assistance Questionnaire. The NACC Office sent a reminder through State Letter NACC59368, dated 3 February 2016. Not all States replied to this questionnaire.

2.6 On Conclusion 5/6 - *Facilitation training material*, the ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC) in Mexico City, Mexico (CIASA) is working on the development of the Facilitation Training Material Programme, and the Instructor’s Guide and the Reference Material for Participants will be submitted during the next meeting of the AVSEC/FAL/RG.

2.7 Regarding Conclusion 5/7 - *AVSEC/FAL/RG Programme of activities and the Strategic Plan of the Regional Group*, the Ad hoc Working Group on the Strategic Plan will assess and determine the development of each ICAO AVSEC/FAL/RG Working Group in the compliance with the established goals, and will submit to ICAO Secretariat results of different projects for consideration of a Global Planning on aviation security. This working group will meet from 6 to 7 June 2016 in Mexico City, previous the AVSEC/FAL/RG/6.

2.8 Regarding Conclusion 5/8 - *Response by States to ICAO State Letters*, the Meeting agreed that representatives of AVSEC and FAL will elevate this conclusion to their respective authorities, to response in a timely manner all ICAO State Letters related with aviation security and facilitation issues, in a permanent way. Unfortunately, there is still lack of effective response by the States to ICAO requests.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Civil Aviation Authorities are urged to address appropriately all ICAO requests and matters related with aviation security and facilitation. In addition, in order to share information and benefit from the successful results obtained in the different projects and developed guidance material by the AVSEC/FAL/RG activities, the Civil Aviation Authorities are urged to support the participation of the AVSEC and FAL units of their States in the AVSEC/FAL/RG activities, which will result in the improvement of their own national aviation security and facilitation systems, as well as in the region.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) urge States of the NAM/CAR Regions corresponding Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL) Authorities to support their AVSEC and FAL Units/representative for an active and committed participation in the AVSEC/FAL/RG activities for the benefit of their own States and of the region; and
- b) respond ICAO AVSEC and FAL requests in an effective and timely manner.

**APPENDIX
AVSEC/FAL/RG/5 MEETING CONCLUSIONS**

Conclusion 5/1 Universal Security Audit Programme and Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA)

That States,

- a) urge their authorities to participate in the Universal Security Audit Programme and Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA) Seminar, scheduled from 13 to 15 July 2015 in Lima, Peru; and
- b) sign the two originals of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and submit it to the USAP-CMA Audit Section at ICAO Headquarters as soon as possible.

Conclusion 5/2 Aviation Security Management Systems programme

That,

- a) States interested in implementing SeMS work towards SeMS implementation with service providers, and that this is developed in stages, as they may deem appropriate;
- b) States interested in implementing SeMS establish short and medium-term objectives, reporting on their pilot progress implementation by the last week of January 2016; and
- c) ICAO Regional Offices in Mexico and Lima, respectively, convene a virtual meeting for the last week of January 2016, in order for States to present their achievements with the pilot implementation of the SeMS.

Conclusion 5/3 Coordination between States to standardize their aviation security systems audit procedures programme

That the Coordination between States to standardize the aviation security system audit procedures programme be continued, and enforce the dates presented by Brazil in WP/09 for its development, considering 60 days from the date of approval of this report (5 June 2015).

Conclusion 5/4 Questionnaire on Facilitation and use of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs)

That:

- a) States review the implementation update of the questionnaire in their facilitation systems, and send their information to the Coordinator State of this Project with copy to the Secretariat; and
- b) the results of this project be submitted to the Secretariat of the AVSEC/FAL/RG and to the States by 31 January 2016.

Conclusion 5/5 Best Facilitation Practices Database

That the States share their best practices on the various facilitation topics, and if deemed appropriate, their best aviation security practices, sending them to the Coordinator State of this Project, with copy to the AVSEC/FAL/RG Secretariat, by the end of August 2015, and thereafter as they deem convenient, so that they can be published on the LACAC platform designated to this end.

Conclusion 5/6 Facilitation training material

That, under the leadership of the ASTC/CIASA the Facilitation Training Material Programme be continued, in order to develop Facilitation training material; and that the Instructor's Guide and the Reference Material for Participants be submitted by 31 January 2016 for assessment of the AVSEC/FAL/RG.

Conclusion 5/7 AVSEC/FAL/RG Programme of activities and the Strategic Plan of the Regional Group

That,

- a) ICAO consider the advantages of having an Aviation Security and Facilitation Global Plan and that regional groups similar to the AVSEC/FAL/RG be in charge of providing follow up to this Plan at the regional level and report the achieved progress to ICAO Headquarters, as a way to harmonize the AVSEC/FAL worldwide efforts, and to provide formal recognition to AVSEC/FAL regional groups, and that the ICAO Secretariat process and forward the approved reports of the AVSEC/FAL/RG meetings using its respective mechanisms, as appropriate; and

- b) a permanent Ad hoc Working Group be formed on the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) Strategic Plan to assess and determine the development of each ICAO AVSEC/FAL/RG Working Group to comply with the established goals, with the possibility of meeting whenever necessary. The NACC and SAM Regional Offices respectively will be responsible for convening the meetings, previously agreed by the AVSEC/FAL/RG.

Conclusion 5/8 Response by States to ICAO State Letters

States are urged to:

- a) reply in a timely and suitable manner to the requests for comments from the ICAO Secretary General on topics of aviation security and facilitation; and
- b) make use of technological tools and conduct virtual work meetings to address the issue of responses to ICAO communications. These meetings would be convened by the NAM/CAR and SAM Regional Offices, respectively, and notified on a timely basis, as appropriate.