International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

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Martinique, France, 21 to 23 June 2022

Agenda Item 6:   **NAM/CAR Regional Aviation Security/Facilitation Implementation**

NAM/CAR REGIONAL AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION

(Presented by Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This paper presents the activities conducted and assistance provided by the NACC Regional Office on aviation security and facilitation during the COVID-19 period and the upcoming activities for 2022. The paper also encourages NACC States for a more active support on aviation security and facilitation.

Action:	Note information and support the work programme.
Strategic Objectives:	• Security & Facilitation
References:	• Annex 9 — Facilitation (15th Edition) Amendment 28 • Annex 17 – Security (10th Edition) Amendment 18

1.   The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact in civil aviation

1.1   Early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic broke and the civil aviation sector was profoundly impacted during the next two years. The pandemic caused the collapse of passenger traffic, with unprecedented decline in history, and the establishment of strict health requirements by the States, most of them still ongoing.

1.2   States experienced a shortage in human and economic resources and were obliged to change procedures and allow remote assessments in order to comply with their civil aviation quality control obligations. Similarly, ICAO stopped its audit programmes and the ICAO NACC Regional Office halted face-to-face events and on-site assistance, switching to virtual assistance only.

1.3   During the first months the focus was on public health measures and protocols to protect passengers, airport staff and crew members and to continue aircraft operations. ICAO organized several online sessions and training and developed guidance addressing these topics: Stablishing a Public Health

Corridor, Repurposing Aircraft Passenger Cabin for Transport of Cargo, ICAO CAPSCA Programme, etc. Links to the online sessions are still available in ICAO TV platform (www.icao.tv).

2.   Aviation security and facilitation assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic

2.1   Regarding aviation security and facilitation specifically, ICAO Headquarters issued the "Guidelines for Aviation Security Contingency Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (State letter on 17 July 2020). The document aimed to assist States to ensure full implementation of Annex 17 provisions during the COVID-19 crisis and was accompanied of the webinar "Aviation Security Contingency Measures during COVID-19 Pandemic" broadcasted on 6 August 2020. Also, the ICAO Aviation Security Audit (ASA) Section organized several USAP-CMA Auditor Training Workshops during 2021 to refresh training of auditors and review the interpretation and auditing of some Annex 17 and Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

2.2   The ICAO NACC Regional Office, in addition to the work done within the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) (more information in NACC/DCA/10 — WP/25), organized several online events to harmonize contingency measures and sanitary protocols in the region and delve into emerging security and facilitation-related topics:

-    ICAO NACC Webinar on Aviation Security after COVID-19 Pandemic (Online, 20 and 22 May 2020);
-    COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre Webinar (Online, 8-9 July 2020);
-    Webinar on Unruly and/or Disruptive Passengers, An Emerging Issue (Online, 25 March 2021);
-    Virtual ICAO Regional USAP-CMA Seminar (Online, 6-9 April 2021);
-    Virtual Security Culture Workshop (Online, 23-27 August 2021);
-    Integral Approach to Cybersecurity risks in Aviation: the EU Strategy (Online, 21 September 2021); and
-    Virtual Technical Seminar on Border Management Post COVID-19 (Online, 1-3 December 2021).

2.3   The information was also disseminated through the participation of the AVSEC/FAL Regional Officers as speakers in external events:

-    BIIN Webinar "Drones: Emerging Threat vs. Security" (Mexico City, 2-3 March 2020);
-    AESYC Webinar "Aviation Security Measures to Implement during the recovery of civil aviation" (Online, 3 June 2020)
-    ACI Webinar on One-Stop Security (Online, 10 July 2020);
-    V BIIN International Aviation Security Forum (7-8 December 2020);
-    X GAP Security Symposium (Online, 22-24 March 2021);
-    VI BIIN International Aviation Security Forum (Online, 12-14 April 2021);
-    VII BIIN International Aviation Security Forum (Online, 27-29 September 2021);
-    OAS Critical Infrastructure Series: Airport Cybersecurity (Online, 18 November 2021); and
-    XI GAP Security Symposium (La Paz, BCS, 17-20 May 2022).

2.4   The work was complemented with the usual online assistance provided by the ICAO NACC Regional Office to NACC States and Territories.

3. **The ICAO Implementation Packages (iPacks)**

3.1 The Implementation Packages (iPacks) were developed in light of the unprecedented impact that COVID-19 was inflicting on the air transport industry. ICAO decided to address various needs of Member States in order to coordinate the response to COVID-19 challenges and prepare restart and recovery of the air transport.

3.2 An iPack is a bundle of standardized guidance material, training, tools and expert support which aim to facilitate and guide the implementation of ICAO provisions. iPacks are in full alignment with the measures and recommendations contained in the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Report and are intended to be self-contained packages.

3.3 Current iPack portafolio covers twelve subjects, four of them directly related with aviation security and facilitation:

- Strengthening National Air Transport Facilitation Committees for the Restart and the Resilience of Civil Aviation (FAL iPack);
- Establishing a Public Health Corridor (PHC iPack);
- COVID-19 Aviation Security Quality Control Oversight (AVSEC iPack); and
- Implementing a Visible Digital Seal for Non-Constrained Environments (VDS-NC) for Travel-Related Health Proofs.

3.4 Under the management of the ICAO NACC Regional Office, several NAM/CAR States already took advantage from these aviation security and facilitation-related iPacks during this period:

- ECCAA FAL iPack (July-September 2021);
- Bahamas AVSEC iPack (October-November 2021);
- ECCAA PHC iPack (May-ongoing 2022);
- Belize AVSEC iPack (June-ongoing 2022);
- El Salvador AVSEC iPack (June-ongoing 2022); and
- Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago iPack (expected start in July 2022).

3.5 The NACC Regional Office continue seeking funds to deliver more iPacks in the NAM/CAR region to guide recovery and resilience efforts of the States and align their activities to the most up-to-date ICAO provisions.

4. **Training and Aviation Security Training Centres' (ASTCs) activity**

4.1 During the COVID-19 pandemic the Aviation Security Training Centres (ASTCs) suspended in person training and switched to an online format. During this period, ICAO continued supporting one training activity per ICAO NACC ASTC.

4.2 Below is the list of funded courses at the three ICAO NACC ASTCs:

- Security Culture Workshop (Virtual) (ASTC Mexico City – CIIASA, 18-22 October 2021);
- Aviation Security Managers Course (Virtual) (ASTC Port of Spain, 8-16 November 2021);
- Aviation Security Managers Course (Virtual) (ASTC Port of Spain, 05-13 September 2022);

- Aviation Security Managers Course (Virtual) (ASTC Mexico City – CIIASA, 17-25 October 2022); and

- Aviation Security Managers Course (Virtual) (ASTC Santo Domingo – ESAC, 21-29 November 2022).

4.3   ASTCs are slowly resuming in person activities with the applicable health restrictions and limitations still prevailing in the States where the ASTCs are located.

4.4   NACC States and Territories CAA staff can attend any training offered at ICAO NACC ASTCs or at any of the other ASTCs belonging to the ICAO ASTC network. More information regarding the ASTC schedule can be found in:
        https://www.icao.int/Security/isd/Training/Lists/ASTC%20Schedule/AllItems.aspx

4.5   Similarly, the ICAO NACC Regional Office started in 2022 delivering onsite training as requested individually by the States (i.e. El Salvador, Guatemala). The full catalogue of AVSEC/FAL available training is summarized in the table below:

ASTP Courses	Workshops
Air Cargo and Mail Security Airport Security Supervisors AVSEC National Inspectors AVSEC National Instructors ICAO Annex 9 - Facilitation	AVSEC Managers Risk Management Crisis Management NCASP NCASTP NCASQCP Certification Systems Airport Security Programme Security Culture

4.5   Other training that encompasses aviation security and facilitation-related material is the course "Managing Compliance with ICAO SARPs" (MCIS) delivered through the ICAO TRAINAIR network. The course aims to enable CAA senior and middle managers to plan, manage and continuously monitor the implementation of ICAO SARPs in their States. As with the previous mentioned training, the course can be requested individually or can be received through the ICAO TRAINAIR centres.

5.   Focused assistance, specific projects and launch of AVSEC/FAL SME Groups

5.1   In order to enhance compliance of NACC States with ICAO SARPs, the ICAO NACC Regional Office established the Systemic Assistance Programme (SAP), concentrated on resolving the deficiencies of the States identified during USOAP-CMA and USAP-CMA audits.

5.2   The average USAP-CMA Effective Implementation (EI) of critical elements in the NACC Region is 63.23% with huge differences between States. Within the SAP, the assistance on aviation security and facilitation has been focused in those States with lower EI%, outstanding the project for the **Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority**. This project, funded by different Donor States, recently completed a major milestone, the review of the primary regulation, and it continues with several safety and security technical missions.

5.3   Regarding specific projects on aviation security and facilitation awarded to the ICAO NACC Regional Office, there are two projects ongoing:

- **Risk assessment project in the Caribbean Region ($70.000).** Since several USAP-CMA protocol questions are linked to mandatory risk assessments that States need to carry out, this project aims to help the States in conducting these risk assessments in accordance to ICAO guidelines.
- **Establishment of General Guidelines and Best Practices for Passengers with Disabilites ($35.000).** This project funded by Saudi Arabia analyses States' regulation and good practice in order to enhance ICAO guidance and improve current SARPs in the subject.

5.4   With the objectives of harmonizing aviation security procedures in the region and establishing a base of competent aviation security experts, the ICAO NACC Regional Office supported the establishment of two AVSEC Subject Matter Expert (SME) groups:

- **AVSEC Central America Regional Group.** Established initially in 2017 the group encompasses all ACSA-COCESNA Member States (i.e. Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua).
- **AVSEC ECCAA SME Group.** Established in 2022 under the auspices of ECCAA, the objectives of the group are to define clearly ECCAA functions on aviation security and facilitation, discuss and align regulation and procedures, and coordinate assistance and support received for the benefit of all ECCAA Member States.

6.   2022 Work Plan and upcoming activities in aviation security and facilitation

6.1   For 2022 the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues developing its work programme in aviation security with several technical missions to individual States already conducted (e.g. Costa Rica) or about to take place (e.g. Cuba, ECCAA, Grenada). This labour is combined with the activities agreed at the AVSEC/FAL/RG (more information in NACC/DCA/10 — WP/25) and with several planned general events that still are pending of confirmation:

- Virtual Workshop on Aviation Security Quality Control Oversight for NACC Territories (Online, expected in September 2022);
- Workshop on One-Stop Security (ECCAA States, expected in September 2022);
- Training for AVSEC Supervisors and staff in the Caribbean (ECCAA States, supported by TSA and expected in October 2022); and
- Virtual Security Culture Workshop (Online, expected in October 2022).

7.   Actions by the NACC/DCA/10

7.1   Aviation Security and Facilitation in the NAM/CAR region still have a wide improvement range and it is of outmost importance the commitment of Directors General towards their AVSEC and FAL units, resulting in specific actions and more resources oriented to close pending USAP-CMA findings.

7.2   ICAO NACC States also need to consider Recommendation 2.5.4 of Annex 17 Amendment 18 (applicable on 18 November 2022) which encourages States to use advanced security equipment:

2.5.4 **Recommendation.**— *Each Contracting State should employ consider the use of advanced security equipment, when investing in new equipment, where appropriate, to the extent operationally, technically and financially practicable, to achieve civil aviation security objectives.*

7.3   As seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, Annex 9 Facilitation SARPs need to be properly considered and States need to issue missing regulations and establish proper structures (e.g. quality control in facilitation) in order to comply with them.

7.4   The meeting is invited to:
   a)   Note the information in the paper; and
   b)   Collaborate towards the complete reactivation of AVSEC/FAL activities of the NAM, CAR and SAM regions.

— END —