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

WORKING PAPER

Tenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/10)
Martinique, France, 21 to 23 June 2022

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

ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION REGIONAL GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This paper presents the status of the NACC work programme on Aviation Security and Facilitation (AVSEC/FAL) developed under the ICAO/Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) and inform on upcoming activities for 2022.	
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.   About the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group

1.1   The ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG) was established to coordinate the work of the NAM/CAR and SAM States Aviation Security and Facilitation (AVSEC/FAL), share experience and good practices, discuss AVSEC/FAL-related topics, and enhance compliance on AVSEC/FAL Standards and recommended practices (SARPs) in the regions.

1.2   The Group's secretariat is provided by the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices and the group comprises representatives from all NAM/CAR and SAM Member States and industry stakeholders (e.g. International Air Transport Association [IATA], Airports Council International, Latin American and Caribbean [ACI-LAC]). The AVSEC/FAL/RG meets once a year to review the progress of dependent working groups, address latest topics and developments, and decide on further actions.

2.   Developments during the two-year COVID-19 pandemic period

2.1   The last face-to-face meeting of the AVSEC/FAL/RG took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 27 to 29 March 2019, and was combined with a Cybersecurity and Unmanned aerial vehicle and the civil aviation Workshop (from 25 to 26 March 2019).

2.2   Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the AVSEC/FAL/RG decided to convene virtually, organizing four online extraordinary meetings:

- First Virtual Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/RV/Ex01), 28 May 2020.
- Second Virtual Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/RV/Ex02), 24 September 2020.
- Third Virtual Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/RV/Ex03), 20 May 2021.
- Fourth Virtual Meeting of the ICAO/LACAC NAM/CAR and SAM Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group (AVSEC/FAL/RG/RV/Ex04), 24 May 2022.

2.3   During this time, the AVSEC/FAL/RG meeting agendas addressed different topics:

- **Information of States' requirements upon departure and/or entry in the country during COVID-19.** A table with details for each State on flights' restrictions, quarantine conditions and allowed COVID-19 tests was weekly updated until the "COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC)", coordinated by ICAO Headquarters, was operative.
- **Sharing of procedures and good practices regarding health measures related to aviation security adopted by States during COVID-19.** The AVSEC/FAL/RG distributed a matrix which covered measures in public areas/sectors; measures corresponding to departure, arrival and transit passengers' circuits; measures corresponding to the control of hold baggage; measures corresponding to cargo and mail; and measures corresponding to airport staff and crew. The matrix contained some questions which were answered and shared within the ICAO Secure Portal, in the AVSEC/FAL/RG dedicated site for the benefit of all the AVSEC/FAL/RG members.
- **Unruly and/or disruptive passengers.** Due to the increase on unruly and/or disruptive passenger cases during the pandemic, a dedicated task group chaired by LACAC was created to analyse cross-cutting aspects of the unruly and disruptive passenger incidents and adjust ICAO available guidance material to the challenges motivated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The group issued a set of recommendations and an information paper was elevated to the ICAO Aviation Security Panel.

- **ICAO special programmes and assistance during COVID-19.** Different initiatives coordinated by ICAO Headquarters took place during the COVID-19 period and AVSEC/FAL/RG members were duly informed. The Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) issued recommendations and guidelines which were widely discussed during the online AVSEC/FAL/RG meetings. ICAO also launched the Implementation Packages (iPacks), bundles of standardized guidance material, training, tools and experts support to facilitate the implementation of ICAO provisions. Currently there are ten iPacks addressing different subjects (e.g. Public Health Corridor, Aerodrome Restart, Unmanned aircraft systems [UAS] Regulatory Framework, Facilitation). The ICAO NACC Regional Office is the Regional Office that managed more iPacks for its Member States, with more than 60 iPacks already delivered.

3.   **Topics in stand-by and adopted decisions at the last AVSEC/FAL/RG meeting**

3.1   There were other initiatives and projects related to AVSEC/FAL discussed within the AVSEC/FAL/RG that were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these activities, the following can be highlighted:

- Review of the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and tracking of advances and regional targets;
- Organization of a new ICAO Workshop on Security Equipment and Technology (postponed to 2023);
- Organization of a cooperative drill of an act of unlawful interference (postponed to 2023);
- Continuation of the Risk Assessment project in the Caribbean region (restart scheduled for July 2022);
- Start of the project on "Establishment of General Guidelines and Best Practices for Passengers with Disabilities" (two missions already conducted in 2022); and
- Restart of Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) on-site activities (i.e. technical assistance visits, face-to-face meetings).

3.2   At the AVSEC/FAL/RG/RV/Ex04 the group discussed on the current status of the GASeP, restart of halted projects, cybersecurity and convenience of resuming face-to-face meetings. Following the consensus, some of the decisions made were:

- Organization of a work session to redefine the GASeP Regional Roadmap upon the GASeP review conducted at ICAO Headquarters (expected for September 2022);

- Restart of face-to-face AVSEC/FAL/RG meetings convening the AVSEC/FAL/RG/10 in Foz de Iguazú, Brazil in November 2022; and

- Restart of CAPSCA activities, with the organization of a face-to-face meeting in September 2022 (proposed location Panama City, Panama).

3.3   These upcoming events will be complemented by initiatives already scheduled by the Secretariat (e.g. Workshop on Security Culture for NAM/CAR territories) and other potential activities organized as needs arise.

4.   Actions by the NACC/DCA/10

4.1   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.

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