INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL SEMINAR ON ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API) AND PASSENGER NAME RECORD (PNR) DATA

(CAIRO, EGYPT, 24 – 26 JUNE 2024)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. PLACE AND DURATION

1.1   The Middle East Regional Seminar on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data was successfully held in Cairo, Egypt (Hybrid) from 24 till 26 June 2024.

2. OPENING

2.1   The Seminar was opened by Mr. Mohamed Abubaker Farea, Regional Director, ICAO Middle East Office, who welcomed all the participants to Cairo and to the Seminar. He emphasized on the importance of aviation security and facilitation to air transportation and the role of Annex 9 SARPs as a tool to support the improvement of facilitation and border control. Additionally, Mr. Farea remarked the significance of the event in the "Year of Facilitation" and called upon the States to seize the opportunity to participate effectively and share their experience. He thanked all the participants for their attendance and wished the Seminar every success in its deliberations.

3. ATTENDANCE

3.1   The Seminar was attended by a total of fifty-five (55) participants: (51) in-person/physical participants from eight (8) States (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Sudan), and (2) Organizations (UNOCT and UNODC); and (4) virtual participants from one (1) State (Iran) and 2 Organizations (IATA and INTERPOL). The list of participants is at **Attachment A**.

4. LANGUAGE

4.1   Discussions were conducted in both English and Arabic and documentation was issued in English. Simultaneous interpretation was provided.

4.2   The documentation and presentations delivered during the Seminar are available on the ICAO MID Office website at: https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/2024/API-PNR%20Seminar.aspx

5. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT

5.1   Mrs. Samiha Al Busaidi, Regional Officer, Aviation Security and Facilitation (RO/ASF) ICAO Middle East Office was the Facilitator of the Seminar supported by Mr. Steven Waterman, API/PNR UN Counter Terrorism Project Officer and Mr. Julian Christopher Hornek, Consultant, from the Air Transport Bureau, ICAO Headquarters, Montreal, Canada.

6. OBJECTIVE

6.1   The main objective of the Seminar was to provide States with an understanding of their obligations under international law regarding the establishment of API systems and development of the capability to collect, process and use PNR data.

7. SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS

Understanding API/PNR and Legal Frameworks

7.1   The Seminar was apprised with ICAO's obligation to support member States and the capacity building activities and events associated with Facilitation through the "Year of Facilitation" and beyond. In addition, a brief progress on the global and regional implementation of AP/PNR was highlighted.

7.2   The Seminar highlighted the recent Annex 9 developments providing a basic overview of Annex 9 chapters, the facilitation Panel structure, the Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) and

the Public Key Directory (PKD). Moreover, it highlighted the updates on the recently amended Doc 9303 that impact border control and passenger data.

7.3   The following subjects were addressed:

- "what is Passenger Data?" showcasing the basics, benefits and the data elements for both API and PNR data.

- The International Legal Framework for Passenger Data; and

- an overview on Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for passenger data.

7.4   The participants were apprised also of the data protection decisions required for States when implementing Passenger Data Systems taking into consideration purpose limitation, retention periods, processing safeguards, data subject rights and oversight to ensure compliance with ICAO's Annex 9 SARPs.

7.5   The Seminar provided an opportunity for sharing of experiences and best practices. In this respect, Jordan Civil Aviation Authority shared their experience in implementing the API and PNR legal framework highlighting the national laws set in relation to the international laws, challenges associated with the implementation and data protection measures all efforts towards the prevention of crimes, human trafficking, counter terrorism and border protection.

Operational Insights and Stakeholder Engagement

7.6   The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided an overview of the activities in the MENA Region of the AIRCOP which is a multi-agency project by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) that aims at strengthening the capacity of international airports in targeting and intercepting high-risk passengers, cargo and mail.

7.7   A practical overview on the Passenger Information Unit by UNODC-AIRCOP was provided highlighting the role and function of a Passenger Information Unit, passenger data collection responsibilities, processing, usage and its protection. The operational use of passenger data in watchlisting, rules based targeting and historical data searches was highlighted.

7.8   Saudi Arabia shared the Kingdom's efforts in combating terrorist travel and cross-border organized crime through the implementation of Passenger Information Unit "The National Travelers Security Center", that processes API utilizing advanced technologies for travelers' security and the application of proactive counter measures.

7.9   The International Air Transportation Association (IATA) apprised the Seminar with the global and regional statistics of API and PNR implementation and drew emphasis on the importance of standardizing legal framework to support airline systems and highlighted consequences of non-standardized requirements. Most importantly, IATA highlighted how their services assist States to develop an API/PNR roadmap and support its implementation based on SARPs set by ICAO, IATA and WCO.

7.10   INTERPOL highlighted its processing of passenger data against INTERPOL watchlists, including the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database and travel documents associated with notices. They also elaborated on the relationship between national passenger units and INTERPOL National Central Bureaus and their approach to data protection.

Collaboration and Future Road mapping

7.11   The Seminar was apprised of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism programme "UN Counter Terrorist Travel Programme", which is an all UN programme to assist States in developing their capability to identify and disrupt the travel of terrorists and serious criminals using civil aviation. The establishment of the regional informal groups that shares the best practices and lessons learned in the establishment of passenger data processing capabilities was highlighted.

7.12   It was underlined that the stepping stone for the development of a roadmap on the implementation of passenger data systems, is the establishment of standardized legal framework highlighting the policy and operational issues that States should consider to ensure a complete, effective and efficient implementation.

8.   CLOSING

8.1   Mrs. Samiha Al Busaidi thanked all participants for their active participation, fruitful discussion, and valuable outcomes. Additionally, she briefly highlighted the main outcomes of the Seminar.

8.2   The participants thanked ICAO for organizing the Seminar and requested for more regional collaborations and sharing of experience between States with specific emphasis on Legal Framework to unify implementation within the Region.

List of Participants

State / Org.	Name in Full: (Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.)	Job Title / Official Position:
EGYPT	Ahmed Kamal Mohamed	AVSEC Inspector / ECAA
EGYPT	Ayman Sabry Mahmoud	AVSEC Inspector / ECAA
EGYPT	Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud Makhlouf	Air Transport Inspector
EGYPT	Ayman Ibrahim Abdel hafeez	Air Transport Inspector - ECAA
EGYPT	Eman Mohamed Amin Elzaabalwy	Director of the Regional Agreements Department
EGYPT	Magdy Mahmoud El-Gizawy	General Manager of Facilitation - ECAA
EGYPT	Mahmoud Abdallah	Air Transport Officer - ECAA
EGYPT	Noha Abd Elhafize Mohammed	Air Transport Officer - ECAA
EGYPT	Rabab Salah Elmaamly	Director of Air Transport Authorization Committee
EGYPT	Samar Nazyeih	Accountant - ECAA
IRAQ	Aymen Mohammed Najm AL-Jashaami	Director of the Security Programs and Training Division - Iraq Civil Aviation Authority
IRAQ	Rimon Sabah Dawood Halata	National Aviation Security Inspector - Iraq Civil Aviation Authority
JORDAN	Suha Abdula Mohammad AL-Karamseh	Chief of Facilitation Division - Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC)
LIBYA	Makram Khashkhwsha	Director of the Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Abd Elrahem Ben Arous	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Abdelmagid Salama	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Abdulhamed Aarab	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Abulghasem Abualhoul	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Alaadeen Addali	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Arebia Hamad	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Majed Krekshi	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Mohammed Abu Naejah	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
LIBYA	Musa Aledreesi	Aviation Security Office - Libyan Civil Aviation Authority
OMAN	Salim Ahmed Said Qatan	Director of the passengers Information Centre
QATAR	Aded Majid Al-Mansoori	Head of Customs Rangers Section
QATAR	Fahad Mohamed Jassim Al-Kubaisi	Assistant Director of Hamad International Airport Customs Dept
QATAR	Nasser Anbar Al-Malki	Customs Inspector / The General Authority of Customs in the State of Qatar
QATAR	Abdulrahman Abdulla Al Qaadi	MOI

State / Org.	Name in Full: (Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.)	Job Title / Official Position:
QATAR	Abdulrahman Khalil Al-Mulla	Target Office / Immigration - MOI
QATAR	Ali Abdulrahman Al Ghanem	Developer / MOI
QATAR	Ali Khalifa Al Maadeed	MOI
QATAR	Hamad Nasser Al Khori	
QATAR	Jassim Mohammed Rashed Al-Sullti	Captain / sita
QATAR	Kayed Ali Al Mohandi	MOI / IT
QATAR	Mohammed Abdulwahaab Al Mutawaa	MOI Officer
QATAR	Noor Ahmad Al-Eshaq	Legal Researcher / National Cyber Security Agency
QATAR	Noor Ahmad Alibrahim	Administration / National Cyber Security Agency
SAUDI ARABIA	Abdulaziz Mohammed Al-Eid	
SAUDI ARABIA	Amjad Abdullah Alajmi	Senior Specialists Facilitation Legislation and Systems - GACA
SAUDI ARABIA	Shahad Abdullah Al-Hoeriny	
SUDAN	Izeldin Awad Abdelmutalab Ali	Head of Facilitation Section
SUDAN	Yasir Abdelrhman Mohammed Osman	Air Transport Officer - SCAA
UNOCT	Motaz Al-Rababah	Programme Management Officer
UNODC - AIRCOP	Dennis Hand	AIRCOP Law Enforcement Expert
UNODC - AIRCOP	Sarah El Basoumy	AIRCOP NPO
ICAO Headquarters	Julian Christopher Hornek	Consultant - ATB/ASF/FAL
ICAO Headquarters	Steven Waterman	ICAO API/PNR Project Officer - UN Counter Terrorism Countering Terrorist Travel Programme - ATB/ASF/FAL
ICAO MID Office	Mohamed Abu Baker Farea	Regional Director
ICAO MID Office	Samiha Al Busaidi	Technical Officer, Aviation Security and Facilitation
ICAO MID Office	Dina El Karimy	Technical Assistant, ATM/SAR and ASF
ICAO MID Office	Ahmed Shaker	Technical Assistant
	Online Participation	
IRAN	Ali Rahmani Nia	Director of IT and cyber security - Civil Aviation Authority
IATA	Mohammad Almansour	Regional Manager Passenger Experience
INTERPOL	Fayssal Ouadda	IT Coordinator
ICAO MID Office	Mohamed Smaoui	Deputy Regional Director
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