

ICAO FACILITATION GLOBAL FORUM 2024

“Seamless Skies: Efficient Facilitation for a Connected World”

(Bogotá, Colombia, 21 to 23 October 2024)

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

1. Enhancing Collaboration and Inter-Agency Coordination

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing National Air Transport Facilitation Programmes (NATFPs) and establishing National Facilitation Committees (NFC). The conference will provide a platform for delegates to exchange ideas, discuss potential solutions to common issues, foster closer ties between national and international stakeholders involved in air transport facilitation and consider strategies for improving communication and cooperation between stakeholders involved in facilitation and sharing best practices and lessons learned from different countries.

2. Improving Airport Facilities and Services for Traffic Growth

This session will consider the capacity for expansion at airports to meet traffic growth, forecasting demand, and effective management of flow arrangements to ensure the improvement of terminal traffic-handling arrangements from the standpoint of customs, immigration and public health. It will address the general comfort of passengers to ensure that the free and continuous flow of traffic is maintained through control channels. The session will also consider the role of aircraft operators and airport authorities in facilitating clearance and service operations, including support of initiatives for simplifying passenger travel. It will further address facilitation issues related to managing unruly passengers in airport facilities and on-board aircraft.

3. Addressing Illegal Migration and Inadmissible Persons

This session will consider strategies for handling inadmissible and undocumented persons and deportees, specifically in the context of civil aviation. It will seek international concurrence on policies to address these matters and will also consider the specific issues preventing refugees and stateless persons from accessing travel documents. These issues differ for States that are parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and/or the 1954 Statelessness Convention and for States that are not parties to these conventions. The discussions will play a pivotal role in recognizing the significance of best practices when issuing Doc 9303-compliant Machine Readable Travel Documents for refugees and stateless persons by countries who are not party to these conventions. It will also propose a way forward for the issuance of compliant travel documents for refugees and stateless persons, thereby shaping future practices in this area.

4. Combatting Human Trafficking

This session will foster a collaborative approach to establishing policies and protocols related to responding to suspected incidents of human trafficking through civil aviation. This approach will include clear lines of reporting to law enforcement agencies, responding to instances of potential victims, and coordinating across State agencies, among States, and with stakeholders (including airport and aircraft operators). The goal is to unite efforts in combating human trafficking in the aviation sector.

5. Passenger Data Exchange

This session will consider the benefits and strategies for the transfer of passenger data, as well as the Standards and implementation guidance materials developed jointly by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) for Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data. It will seek support for greater standardization in implementing passenger data exchange systems. Regarding Electronic Travel Systems (ETS) as defined in Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, the Conference will consider how to standardize terms such as eVisa, electronic travel authority, or visa upon arrival and the recommended way to implement ETS with a fully automated validation system. It will also encourage States to utilize their NATFC to support and coordinate the development of API and PNR systems.

6. Accessibility in International Civil Aviation

This session will build on the actions identified in the Assembly Resolution A41-15: *Accessibility in International Civil Aviation*. Indeed, facilitation of the transport of persons with disabilities is a major challenge for air transport facilitation, as a significant and expanding portion of the global population comprises persons with disabilities and reduced mobility. As a result, it is becoming increasingly important to render accessibility in aviation for all passengers worldwide, particularly those most vulnerable, such as those with disabilities. However, certain barriers prevent elderly and disabled persons from utilizing international air transportation services to their full potential. The obstacle to overcome include varying requirements throughout the passenger journey in order to achieve a disability-inclusive air transport system in cooperation with all the stakeholders.

7. Management of Public Health-related Matters in Aviation

This session will place an emphasis on the need to enhance collaboration among States, regional and international organizations and industry to improve preparedness planning and response to public health events that affect the aviation sector, considering collaborative arrangements, such as the ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA). The planned discussions between health and civil aviation authorities and relevant organizations will include the major challenges civil aviation faces during different types of public health events, identification of lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic preparedness planning and response, taking into account the future resilience of aviation, the application of border control and that entry requirements should be as globally interoperable as possible.

8. Streamlining Cargo Release and Clearance Processes

This session will consider the concepts and principles embodied in Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and the WCO revised Kyoto Convention and seek an effective implementation Strategy. It will also consider the interdependence of customs and facilitation functions in risk management and seek consensus on an effective approach to release and clearance processes with respect to air cargo in an environment of heightened demand and the need for automation and interoperability of cargo community systems within the air cargo supply chain.

9. Capacity Building and Implementation Support for States

This session will discuss strategies for enhancing the operational capabilities of Member States to meet international requirements. It will identify needs and highlight the benefits of providing technical assistance and expertise to help States implement facilitation measures, propose funding opportunities for facilitation capacity-building initiatives and encourage international cooperation and partnerships to share resources and expertise. Additionally, it will provide a platform and devise strategies to promote regional collaboration to address common challenges and leverage regional strengths. The session will further consider ICAO Facilitation initiatives through the Facilitation Panel (FALP), the Technical Advisory Group on the Traveller Identification Programme (TAG/TRIP) and ongoing initiatives with the Public Key Directory (PKD) Board. As the evolution in aviation innovations accelerates, the Conference will be invited to recommend how to enhance regulatory capacity, develop new training approaches and adapt current processes and procedures to embrace these transformations.

10. Closing Session: Moving Forward Together

Dialogue on high-level principles focusing on how internal coordination as well as regional and international cooperation are keys to successful implementation of facilitation measures.

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