

ICAO Facilitation Regional Forum

3 to 4 March 2025
Yaoundé, Cameroon




ICAO FACILITATION REGIONAL FORUM

Seamless Skies: Efficient Facilitation for a Connected World


(Yaoundé, Cameroon, 3 to 4 March 2025)

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

| Sunday, 2 March 2025 | |
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| TIME | |
| 14:00–19:00 | ❖ ON-SITE REGISTRATION Palais des Congres, Yaoundé, Cameroon |
| Day 1 – Monday, 3 March 2025 | |
| 07:00–09:00 | ❖ ON-SITE REGISTRATION Palais des Congres, Yaoundé, Cameroon |
| 09:30–10:30 | OPENING CEREMONY Master of Ceremony: TBC Welcome address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President of Cameroon Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keynote address by Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)• High level Official from Government of Cameroon Cultural Performance Group Photo |
| 10:30–11:00 | ❖ COFFEE BREAK |
| 11:00–11:15 | SETTING THE SCENE Presentation by Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma , Director, Air Transport Bureau, ICAO |

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| 11:15–12:30 | <p>SESSION 1. ICAO REGULATORY ROLE IN FACILITATION</p> <p>Annex 9 — <i>Facilitation</i> is considered one of the most diverse Annexes to the Chicago Convention, as it comprises a wide variety of multidisciplinary topics related to aviation that are linked to other Annexes. This session will provide information on the ICAO role and mandate related to facilitation matters, highlighting recent developments in Annex 9, and the on-going work in implementing the resolutions adopted by the 41st Session of the Assembly (A41).</p> <p>❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD</p> |
| 12:30–12:45 | <p></p> |
| 12:45–14:00 | <p>❖ LUNCH</p> |
| 14:00–15:15 | <p>SESSION 2. ENHANCING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION: STATE EXPERIENCES ON NATFCs</p> <p>This session will explore the challenges and opportunities in regional collaboration and national interagency coordination. It will highlight coordination mechanisms to improve collaboration between civil aviation authorities, airports, airlines and government agencies like customs, immigration, health and quarantine. Effective coordination is crucial for a safe, secure and efficient air transport system, as emphasized in Standard 8.19 of Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The session will offer a platform for exchanging ideas, discussing solutions, and sharing experiences on forming and running National Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFC) or similar mechanisms.</p> <p>❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD</p> |
| 15:15–15:45 | <p>❖ COFFEE BREAK</p> |
| 15:45–17:00 | <p>SESSION 3. ENTRY AND DEPARTURE OF PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE</p> <p>This session will address the need for States to improve clearance control formalities and further international cooperation to enhance the passenger experience. It will focus on measures that streamline facilitation processes and border control formalities and thereby reduce congestion at departure points and improve traffic flow.</p> <p>❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD</p> |

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| 17:15–18:30 | Interactive Workshop ASSISTANCE TO AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES Overview of current ICAO initiatives and material and Annex 9 implementation experience of ICAO requirements will be discussed from the perspective of implementing States, oversight authorities, aircraft and airport operators. Delving into the specifics of the training programme, in-depth examination of the need for practical training and exercises will be discussed. Through sharing case studies and expertise, areas of improvement and/or adjustment of international standards may be identified. |
| 18:30–18:40 | Wrap-up of Day 1 by the Master of Ceremony |
| 19:00–22:00 | GALA DINNER |

| Day 2 – Tuesday, 4 March 2025 | |
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| 09:00–10:15 | SESSION 4. MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS Recent examples, including from the Africa region, emphasize the importance of ensuring resilience and readiness to handle health emergencies in aviation. Discussions between health and civil aviation authorities in this session will examine the major challenges civil aviation faces during different types of public health events and identify lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this session, panellists will consider regular and on-going actions of importance, such as disinsection and disinfection of aircraft, as well as best practice approaches to contingency planning and emergency response. Capacity needs at airports and amongst aircraft operators will be analysed. The provisions of ICAO Annex 9 and the World Health Organization (WHO) revised International Health Regulations (IHR) will provide an important foundation for the deliberations. ❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD |
| 10:15–10:45 | ❖ COFFEE BREAK |
| 10:45–12:00 | SESSION 5. CAPACITY BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR STATES This session will discuss provision of technical assistance to States as well as capacity building initiatives being offered by ICAO and other stakeholders. The enhancement of regulatory capacity and operational capabilities of States and the promotion of international cooperation and regional collaboration to share resources and expertise and to address common challenges and leverage regional strengths will also be discussed. Specific needs of the region will be considered and possible options for future development put forward. ❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD |
| 12:00–12:15 |  |
| 12:15–14:00 | ❖ LUNCH |

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| 14:00–15:15 | <p>SESSION 6. INADMISSIBLE PERSONS AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS</p> <p>This session will highlight the importance of handling inadmissible persons and deportees in a respectful manner and discuss the specific issues preventing refugees and stateless from accessing travel documents. Policies relating to inadmissible persons, deportees, refugees and Stateless persons will be discussed. Rules for, and best practices associated with, issuance of Doc 9303 compliant MRTDs for refugees and stateless persons by all countries will also be considered. Possible innovations shaping future practices for the issuance of travel documents to refugees and Stateless persons will also be the subject of discussion.</p> <p>❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD</p> |
| 15:15–15:45 | ❖ COFFEE BREAK |
| 15:45–17:00 | <p>SESSION 7. PASSENGER DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEMS</p> <p>Annex 9 requires States to implement Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data systems, both of which involve transfer of data from travel documents and aviation systems from carriers to governmental authorities. These passenger data exchange systems are considered vital in combating transnational criminality, necessitating consideration of their effective implementation. Data quality is also important, implying verification of data using tools like the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD). The session will explore how sharing and analysing trustworthy and high-quality passenger data, along with digitalization and innovation technologies, can further improve the passenger experience and enhance the fight against cross-border crime. Best practices for effective implementation will also be shared.</p> <p>❖ QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD</p> |
| 17:15–18:30 | <p>Interactive Workshop</p> <p>FACILITATION OF THE TRANSPORT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</p> <p>This session will discuss the importance of facilitating air travel for Persons with Disabilities and Reduced Mobility. It will highlight the different barriers and various requirements throughout the passenger journey for persons with disabilities with the objective to achieve a disability-inclusive air transport system in collaboration with all stakeholders. It will also highlight the necessary development of an effective ICAO strategy on accessibility for passengers with disabilities and reduced mobility.</p> |
| 18:30–18:45 | CLOSING CEREMONY |