



**Fourth GREPECAS–RASG-PA Joint Meeting and
 Twenty-second Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group
 (GREPECAS/22)**

Virtual Phase (Asynchronous, 13 September to 11 October 2024)
 In-Person Phase (Lima, Peru, 20 to 22 November 2024)

Agenda Item 12: Other business

CIVIL AVIATION: A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PILLAR OF SAFETY

(Presented by Chile)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper suggests raising awareness on the role of the aviation system in the prevention of acts that threaten national and international safety.	
Action:	To incorporate to the ICAO framework elements that will allow to create a national and international safety culture within the civil aviation system.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation Security • Safety • Global Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency • Economic Development of Air Transport
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO ANNEX 19 • ICAO ANNEX 17 • DOC 8973 – Aviation Security Manual • DOC 9859 – Safety Management Manual • DOC 7300 – Convention on International Civil Aviation

1. Introduction

1.1 A variety of issues that go beyond the traditional understanding of a threat are currently shaping a complex scenario for national and international safety and creating significant challenges for the achievement of the strategic objectives set by ICAO and, consequently, for national interests. In this context, and with regard to civil aviation, issues such as the digitalization of systems available for Air Traffic Management (ATM), System-wide information management (SWIM), Artificial Intelligence (IA), Cybersecurity and undetectable or almost undetectable Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), have become elements of risk for the safety, defense and integral development of the countries in our region.

1.2 The cross-cutting nature of processes within the civil aviation ecosystem has turned it into a target for terrorism and other asymmetric threats, having a direct impact over the normal development of State's activities. A terrorist attack directed to a country through aviation and caused, for example, by the malicious operation of artificial intelligence and automatic systems, could have catastrophic consequences not only in terms of human losses, but also in terms of its influence over national security, international relations, economy and population wellbeing. This would also affect the perception of safety of the organization, requiring to increase safety measures in most of the processes established for the functioning of the same.

1.3 Remembering the tragedies that occurred in the United States on September 11, 2001, allows us to awaken our dormant knowledge on these threats and the importance of focusing on the cross-cutting impact on the system surrounding air transportation over the objectives of the States.

2. Analysis

2.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has focused primarily on the development of standards and guidelines to guarantee the safety and efficiency of civil aviation processes, prioritizing elements such as safety and security. However, the lack of specific guidelines on the impact that the breach of this safety can have over national and international security is a critical deficiency in a context of emerging threats that entail strategic consequences for States.

2.2 Promoting this interdependent relationship will allow the interaction between national laws and international guidelines to create a solid, effective and collaborative framework that contributes to the prevention and efficient reaction in the presence of threats to the State. In this regard, it should be noted that many National Security issues are no longer of exclusive responsibility of the military; therefore, it is necessary to understand this objective from a civil and multidisciplinary perspective.

2.2 As a consequence, the security of States and the security of civil aviation are intrinsically related. This should be primarily understood by Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) in order to evaluate the need of a new direction for internal and extra-institutional management, as a result of the new role of aviation in national and international security matters and the subsequent integral development of the States.

2.3 In order to comply with the above, it is fundamental that the CAAs have at their disposal ICAO guidelines and recommendations that encourage a culture of security with regard to the underlying threats of air transportation that could breach the integrity of the States, the main purpose being to fulfill and maintain the commitment made by the authorities responsible for these matters and the cooperation of all actors involved in these objectives.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The inclusion of issues related to national and international security will strengthen global aviation resilience against threats transcending operational aspects and will keep civil aviation from turning into a vulnerability for the security of States.

4. Suggested Actions

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information presented in this Working Paper;
- b) urge ICAO to broaden its guidance framework to include the connections between civil aviation and national and international security; and
- c) take on additional actions if deemed necessary.

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