

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 41TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
PROVISIONAL EDITION**

A41-17: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation

Whereas Annex 9 — Facilitation, was developed as a means of articulating the obligations of Member States under Articles 22, 23 and 24 of the Convention and standardizing procedures for meeting the legal requirements referred to in Articles 10, 13, 14, 29 and 35;

Whereas implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 is essential to facilitate the clearance of aircraft, passengers/crew and their baggage, cargo and mail, as well as manage challenges in border controls and airport processes so as to maintain the efficiency of air transport operations;

Recognizing that the restrictions and public health measures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have had a serious impact on the aviation industry and that this impact must be taken into account by ICAO and Member States when making decisions on air transport facilitation;

Reaffirming the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) among others, the need to ensure a safe, secure, and orderly flow of traffic with operational readiness of aviation, and to ensure the long-term resilience of international aviation and incorporate the lessons learned from the current and past pandemics;

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the Facilitation stream of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) of October 2021;

Whereas it is essential that Member States continue to pursue the objective of maximizing efficiency and security in such clearance operations; and

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolutions stress the continuing importance of ICAO's work on border control management and security of travel documents in the fight against terrorism.

The Assembly:

1. Resolves that the Appendices attached to this resolution and listed below constitute the consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation, as these policies exist at the close of the 41st Session of the Assembly:

Appendix A — Development and implementation of facilitation provisions

Appendix B — National and international action in ensuring the security and integrity of traveller identification and border controls

Appendix C — National and international action and cooperation on facilitation matters

Appendix D — Passenger Data Exchange Systems

2. Requests the Council to keep the consolidated statement related to facilitation under review and advise the Assembly as appropriate when changes are needed to the statement; and

3. Declares that this resolution supersedes Resolution A40-16: Consolidated statement of continuing policies related to facilitation.

APPENDIX B

National and international action in ensuring the integrity of traveller identification and border controls and enhancing security

Whereas Member States recognize the relevance of traveller identification and border control management to the ICAO Strategic Objective of security and facilitation;

Whereas Member States recognize that the ability to uniquely identify individuals requires a holistic and coordinated approach, which links the following five interdependent elements of traveller identification and border control management into a coherent framework:

- a) foundational documents, tools and processes required to ensure evidence of identity;
- b) the design and manufacture of standardized Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), especially ePassports, that comply with ICAO specifications defined in Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents;
- c) processes and protocols for document issuance by appropriate authorities to authorized holders, and controls to combat theft, tampering and loss;
- d) inspection systems and tools for the efficient and secure reading and verification of MRTDs at borders, including use of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD); and
- e) interoperable applications that provide for timely, secure and reliable linkage of MRTDs and their holders to available and relevant data in the course of inspection operations;

Whereas Member States require capacity to uniquely identify individuals and require tools and mechanisms available to establish and confirm the identity of travellers;

Whereas the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) strategy provides the global framework for achieving the maximum benefits of travel documents and border controls by bringing together the elements of the traveller identification management;

Whereas Member States of the United Nations have resolved, under Resolution 70/1 adopted on 25 September 2015, to adopt a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported by 169 targets, the target 16.9 being to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019) decided that all Member States shall prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery, or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents;

Whereas the veracity and validity of machine-readable travel documents (MRTDs) depends on the readability and protection of these documents, physical securities contributing to them, and electronic securities guaranteeing them;

Whereas the limitation of the number of possible civil statuses for a person depends on the documentation used to establish identity, confirm citizenship or nationality, and assess entitlement of the passport applicant (i.e., breeder documentation);

Whereas the passport is the main official travel document that denotes a person's identity and citizenship and is intended to inform the State of transit or destination that the bearer can return to the State which issued the passport;

Whereas international confidence in the integrity of the passport is essential to the functioning of the international travel system;

Whereas the use of stolen blank passports, by those attempting to enter a country under a false identity, is increasing worldwide;

Whereas reporting promptly accurate information about stolen, lost, or revoked travel documents issued by each Member State to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database is mandatory as per an Annex 9 — Facilitation Standard;

Whereas the security of traveller identification and border controls depends on a robust identification management system and the integrity of the travel document issuance process;
Whereas high-level cooperation among Member States is required in order to strengthen resistance to passport fraud, including forgery or counterfeiting of passports, use of valid passports by impostors, use of expired or revoked passports, and the use of fraudulently obtained passports;

Whereas Member States of the United Nations have resolved, under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006, to step up efforts and cooperation at every level, as appropriate, to improve the security of manufacturing and issuing identity and travel documents and to prevent and detect their alteration or fraudulent use;

Whereas enhanced and intensified cooperation among Member States is required in order to combat and prevent identification and travel document fraud;

Whereas Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) are travel documents that States Parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (“the 1951 Convention”) and the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (“the 1954 Convention”) shall issue to refugees or stateless persons lawfully staying on their territory (see respective Article 28 of both Conventions), and as such are travel documents foreseen in two international treaties for persons benefiting from an internationally recognized status;

Whereas ICAO has set up the Public Key Directory (PKD) to assist in the authentication of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) including ePassports, thereby strengthening their security and the integrity of border controls;

Whereas Member States request from ICAO programmes, technical assistance, and capacity-building support in strengthening their traveller identification and border control management;
Whereas cooperation on human trafficking matters among Member States and with the various national, regional, international parties, and other stakeholders interested in this area has brought benefits to procedures to combat trafficking in persons.

The Assembly:

1. Urges Member States, through their travel document and border control management, to uniquely identify individuals to maximize facilitation and aviation security benefits, including preventing acts of unlawful interference and other threats to civil aviation;

2. Urges Member States to implement rigorous processes and tools to safeguard the integrity and security of breeder documentation by notably applying evidence of identity principles, such as ensuring that identity exists and is living, the applicant links to identity and is unique to the system through the provision of confidence of the applicant's "social footprint" and check against agency records or by associating the record with one or more biometrics;
3. Urges Member States to intensify their efforts in developing and implementing a robust identification management system and safeguard the security and integrity of the travel document issuance process;
4. Urges Member States to intensify their efforts in establishing and implementing a solid verification system of the integrity of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs), in particular by authenticating their electronic signatures and verifying their validity;
5. Requests the Council to direct the Secretary General to maintain and update the ICAO TRIP Strategy Implementation Roadmap to assist Member States to uniquely identify individuals, and to enhance the security and integrity of their travel documents and border controls;
6. Requests Member States to intensify their efforts to safeguard the security and integrity of traveller identification and border controls, and to assist one another in these matters;
7. Urges those Member States that have not already done so, to issue machine-readable passports in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303;
8. Reminds Member States to ensure that non-machine readable passports are withdrawn from circulation;
9. Urges those Member States that have decided to issue eMRTDs to do so in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303;
10. Urges Member States to ensure that when issuing travel documents for refugees and stateless persons (Convention Travel Documents (CTDs)), these CTDs are machine-readable, in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303;
11. Reminds Member States to establish controls to safeguard against the theft of blank travel documents and the misappropriation of newly issued travel documents;
12. Urges those Member States requiring assistance in building effective and efficient traveller identification and border control systems to contact ICAO without delay;

13. Requests the Council to ensure that specifications and guidance material contained in Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents, remain up to date in light of technological advances;
14. Urges Member States to reinforce their border control management processes as also required by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, by implementing the related Annex 9 — Facilitation Standards;
15. Calls upon Member States to implement technological solutions aimed at enhancing security and facilitation of border controls while improving clearance procedures, such as the joint use of Automated Border Control (ABC) gates and the ICAO PKD when authenticating eMRTDs;
16. Requests the Secretary General to continue to explore technological solutions aimed at enhancing security and facilitation of border controls while improving clearance procedures;
17. Requests the Council to continue the work on further strengthening the integrity of traveller identification and border controls management and enhancing security, and developing guidance material to assist Member States to further those objectives;
18. Urges the Council to explore ways of intensifying assistance and capacity-building support to Member States in the traveller identification and border control areas, including a proactive leadership role for ICAO in facilitating and coordinating such assistance in the international community;
19. Urges all Member States to join the ICAO PKD, upload relevant information from their own State to the PKD, and to use the information available from all States in the ICAO PKD to authenticate eMRTDs at border controls;
20. Urges those Member States that are not already doing so to promptly report accurate information about stolen, lost, and revoked travel documents issued by their State, to INTERPOL for inclusion in their Stolen and Lost Travel Document (SLTD) database;
21. Calls upon those Member States that are not already doing so to query, at entry and departure border control points, the travel documents of individuals travelling internationally against the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database;
22. Urges Member States to establish efficient and effective mechanisms in order to implement submissions to, and queries of, the SLTD database;
23. Urges Member States to establish among all involved stakeholders an efficient information-sharing and collaboration system in the prevention of human trafficking; and

24. Requests the Secretary General to continue to develop relevant guidance material on combatting trafficking in persons in order to support Member States in their implementation of the provisions of Annex 9 — Facilitation related to trafficking in persons.