

DRAFT MUSCAT DECLARATION ON AVIATION SECURITY AND AVIATION CYBERSECURITY

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 11 December 2024

We, the Ministers, and Heads of Delegation, meeting at the Ministerial Segment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Security Week held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 11 December 2024, in the presence of senior representatives of the aviation industry:

Recalling ICAO Assembly Resolutions A41-18 and A41-19 enshrining the global commitment of States to enhancing aviation security and cybersecurity;

Affirming that aviation connects the world, brings people and countries together, and makes social and economic development possible through travel, trade and tourism, and thus shall be effectively protected;

Acknowledging the importance of a common UN approach involving cooperation and coordination among all relevant UN bodies and specialized agencies in recognizing the aviation sector as critical infrastructure on which national security, prosperity and development, as well as the global economy, are dependent;

Recognizing that aviation security and cybersecurity are critical for the sustainable development of air transport and that they need to be prioritized and appropriately resourced;

Emphasizing the need to maintain vigilance as the perceived absence of major aviation security or cybersecurity incidents does not mean the risk is lower; and

Reaffirming the value and importance of ICAO's *No Country Left Behind* initiative that aims to help States through supporting and providing delivery of targeted and effective aviation security and cybersecurity training, assistance and capacity-building to States in need.

THEREFORE, URGE STATES, ICAO, INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO:

- a) Strengthen efforts in addressing new and existing threats to international civil aviation, including those from insiders and cyber attacks;
- b) Advocate for States to ratify the *Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation* and the *Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft* (Beijing 2010), as a means to deter and respond to attacks against civil aviation;
- c) Give aviation security and cybersecurity the same importance, high priority, and support as applied to other aspects of civil aviation;
- d) Ensure effective coordination of aviation safety, security, and cybersecurity to benefit from shared knowledge and strengthened efforts;
- e) Secure sufficient resources to ensure qualified and competent professionals are available to regulate, operate, manage, maintain, and oversee the effective implementation of measures related to aviation security and cybersecurity;
- f) Adopt risk-based and outcome-focused policies, standards, regulations and innovative approaches including the development of management systems and effective oversight to guide the coordinated development of sustainable aviation security and cybersecurity measures;
- g) Ensure the prompt sharing of information to help conduct risk assessments for threats to aviation, including cyber threats, preventing and mitigating those threats, developing and maintaining a resilient aviation ecosystem, and responding to and recovering from incidents impacting civil aviation. At the technical level, this sharing of information should include all relevant experts;
- h) Strengthen cooperation in the development of comprehensive aviation security and cybersecurity guidance material;
- i) Ensure that security measures are effective and at the same time facilitate the flow of passengers and cargo;

- j) Ensure effective implementation of ICAO Standards and strive to achieve together the aspirational goal of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and its six Priority Areas;
- k) Recognize the specialist skills needed to operate and manage current and emerging aviation security technologies, and hire and train staff for their use, while pursuing efforts to attract the next generation of aviation professionals and to promote policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, which includes bridging the gender gap within the aviation industry;
- l) Expedite the implementation of the ICAO Aviation Cybersecurity Strategy and its Cybersecurity Action Plan to support a robust global aviation cybersecurity framework;
- m) Be proactive in identifying and addressing cyber threats to civil aviation and encourage the implementation of regular cybersecurity training and awareness sessions for aviation personnel to ensure they have the necessary skills; and
- n) Proactively support ICAO's regional groups in aviation security and cybersecurity and cooperative programmes, such as the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan), Cooperative Aviation Security Programme – Middle East (CASP-MID) and Cooperative Aviation Security Programme – Asia Pacific (CASP-AP), which are vital to help States implement ICAO Standards and to enhance operational efficiencies.

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