International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Security policy

AVIATION SECURITY ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES TO THREATS IN NEPAL

(Presented by Nepal)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides a brief overview of aviation security responses to threats and corresponding activities in Nepal including the implementation of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme. A cooperative approach should be continued as an essential factor in achieving the strategic objective of ICAO on global aviation security and implementation of aviation security-related Standards and Recommended Practices.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

a) note the activities relating to aviation security and the status of audit report implementation in Nepal; and

b) take a continued lead role by ICAO in a cooperative approach against new and existing threats for the enhancement of aviation security globally.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective B – *Security*, enhance global civil aviation security
Financial implications:	No financial implications
References:	No references

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   In response to acts of unlawful interference that Nepal experienced against the safety of civil aviation, Nepal has always given the highest priority in strengthening aviation security specifically in protecting lives and properties. It is also committed to comply with the security standards, policies and procedures set by ICAO, despite various constraints. We are aware of the reality that because of the globalization of aviation and globalization of threat against the safety of civil aviation, a common effort by all States has become a necessity. This paper has been prepared to give to fellow participants brief information on aviation security activities in Nepal and draws attention to the need for international and regional cooperation for strengthening aviation security globally.

2.   **AVIATION SECURITY ACTIVITIES IN NEPAL**

2.1   Nepal attained the membership of ICAO in 1960 with the signing of the Chicago Convention. Since then Nepal has been actively involved in complying with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. Following are the major initiatives Nepal has taken in strengthening Aviation Security in Nepal.

2.2   **Incorporation of Aviation Security provisions in Civil Aviation Act in 1973**. These provisions include:

   a) declaration of crime against the safety of civil aviation and the punishment for such crimes;

   b) declaration of airport restricted areas and the control of unauthorized access to such areas; and

   c) security searches of persons and goods before being allowed to board or load to aircraft and before being allowed to enter into restricted areas.

2.3   **Ratification of ICAO Tokyo, The Hague and Montréal Conventions**. Nepal has ratified the Tokyo Convention (Convention on offences and certain other acts committed on board an aircraft), The Hague Convention (Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft) and Montréal Convention (Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil Aviation) in 1979. Ratification of other conventions and protocols is under process.

2.4   **Adoption of Aviation Security (Management) Rules**. Nepal adopted Civil Aviation Security (Management) Rules in 1989 which mainly include:

   a) establishment of a National Civil Aviation Security Committee responsible for the determination of a National Policy for Aviation Security, national-level coordination, adoption of a security plan and procedures, and determining security measures to be implemented; and

   b) establishment of an Airport Security Committee responsible for the implementation of decisions made by the National Civil Aviation Security Committee, coordination of security activities at the airport level, additional security measures for the

protection of vulnerable points, and keeping all airport organizations having aviation security responsibilities always on the guard.

2.5   **Adoption of a National Civil Aviation Security Programme**. Nepal has adopted a National Civil Aviation Security Programme as required by ICAO Annex 17 Standard 3.1.1. The main achievement of this document is to make the aviation stakeholders aware of their aviation security responsibilities and concentrating security activities into one direction in a systematized way.

2.6   **ICAO Aviation Security Audit of Nepal and corrective actions taken in response to audit results**. Nepal was audited under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) in February 2006. The following actions are the major achievements as a result of the corrective action plan which Nepal prepared and submitted to ICAO to address the audit recommendations:

a)   revision of the National Civil Aviation Security Programme;

b)   adoption of an Airport Security Programme for all airports, National Quality Control Programme, National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme, and various Standard Operating Procedures for each of the security requirements; and

c)   initiation of establishing a separate wing of aviation security within the Nepal Police with a dedicated group of professional security personnel.

Corrective actions were validated by the ICAO follow-up visit conducted in 2008. Nepal is scheduled to be audited in November 2010 under the second cycle of ICAO audits. The pre-audit questionnaire and compliance checklist required for the audit have been sent to the ICAO Aviation Security Audit Section.

2.7   **Training**. The Civil Aviation Academy (CAA) under the CAAN is continuously engaged in conducting various aviation security-related training courses, including Senior and Junior Level Aviation Security Courses, an Aviation Security Field-based Training Course, Aviation Security Orientation Course, Pre-board Passenger Screening Course and Aviation Security Awareness Course.

2.8   Nepal is participating in the training programme organized by ICAO for the States of Asia and Pacific Region.

2.9   Regional cooperation in this regard is believed to be beneficial. Aviation Security Screening Training provided by Jet Airways (India) to Civil Aviation Security staff and the Aviation Security Training conducted by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS-India) at Kathmandu are examples of such cooperation.

2.10   Considering the nature of threats in the region, such trainings, no doubt, could help to establish a common understanding to determine the response strategy and ultimately to enhance aviation security in the region.

3.   **THREATS AND ACTIONS**

3.1   The attempted sabotage of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on 25 December 2009 triggered a number of reactive and proactive actions at the international level to cope with this and similar acts of terrorism. The Tokyo Ministerial-level Regional Aviation Security Conference, among others, held in the

aftermath of this act, was a new event to look into threats and security issues. Nepal, too, participated in the Conference, in which the participant States in the region stressed the need to enhance international aviation security standards in order to respond more effectively to new and emerging threats. Recommendations made include: broadening of existing cooperation mechanisms amongst States and industry; utilization of modern technologies to detect prohibited items while respecting the privacy and safety of individuals; reinforcement and promotion of travel document security; and balancing a high level of security with the facilitation of passenger travel.

4.   **INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL COOPERATION**

4.1   In tandem with the spirit of international or regional cooperation, Nepal is actively participating in the ICAO Cooperative Aviation Security Programme for Asia Pacific (CASP-AP). However, in light of new and emerging threats to civil aviation, challenges to address new and existing threats, promoting innovative and effective approaches, aviation security-related information sharing, promoting global compliance, and establishing aviation security oversight capabilities, need to be met in unison. These challenges are met only when ICAO, States and stakeholders continue to work in close cooperation to deal with all threats to the security and integrity of the global air transport system.

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