ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 15: Aviation Security Programme

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ARAB CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY HELD IN JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, 26 TO 28 MARCH 2007

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Second International Conference for Arab Civil Aviation Security in Jeddah from 26 to 28 March 2007.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective B.
Financial implications:	Not applicable
References:	

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   Fully aware of the importance of aviation security and its strategic role in the stability and development of air transport industry on both the regional and international levels, and in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Arab civil aviation commission (ACAC), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Second International Conference for Arab Civil Aviation Security in Jeddah from 26 to 28 March 2007, where about 565 participants attended, representing all Arab civil aviation authorities, certain states and international civil aviation-related organizations.

1.2   This important regional event was held under the slogan "Let's Work Together to Face Aviation Security Threats". A number of prominent aviation security experts and specialists from the Arab region and the world participated in the lectures and discussions.

1.3   The agenda of the conference included the following major areas:

a) Threats facing the air transport industry;

b) Legislative authorities' responsibility for providing security to the air transport system;

c) Air carriers and relevant organizations' responsibilities;

d) Aviation protection standards and procedures against unlawful acts of interference; and

e) Balance required between aviation security system and facilitations.

2.   CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION

2.1   Upon the conclusion of its works which lasted three days, the conference issued a final statement that included Arab states vision of the global aviation security and their determination to support and strengthen all that would lead to enhancing security; protection of airports, passengers and aviation operations in the Arab region. The statement also included a 10-point recommendation and called upon civil aviation authorities in the Arab states to adopt it and work towards its implementation and be guided by it. A copy of the final statement is attached herewith.

3.   CONCLUSION

3.1   To inform the General Assembly about the second international Conference for Arab Civil Aviation Security and its results.

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APPENDIX

CONFERENCE DECLARATION
SECOND INTERNATIONAL ARAB AVIATION SECURITY CONFERENCE
JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, 26 TO 28 MARCH 2007

The Presidents and Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities of Arab States wish to express their highest regards and appreciation to the government of the Kingdom Saudi Arabia for their warm welcome and hospitality in hosting the Second International Arab Aviation conference (ARAVSEC 2007), under the sponsorship of his Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saoud, the Crown prince Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense & Aviation and Inspector General.

The conference was held at Jeddah during the period 26th to 28th of March 2007, and organized by the Saudi Arabia General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) in collaboration with the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and attended by representatives from all Arab states, Arab League, AACO and from concerned regional and international organizations.

The conference has reviewed the declaration of the first ARAVSEC Conference held at Abu-Dhabi in February 2006, and noted the actions taken by ACAC in that respect.

In view of discussions took place in the ARAVSEC 2007 addressing its theme "working together Against Civil Aviation Threats".

Reaffirming the significance of the Air Transport industry and its role in the advancement of national economies and strengthening social & political links between Arab states and the other regions of the world.

Recognizing the importance of Aviation Security and its critical role in the global air transport system in accordance with Chicago Convention (1944).

Realizing the need for Arab states to keep pace with international efforts in supporting aviation security both regionally and internationally to ensure proper implementation of relevant measures and standards.

Responding to the paramount criticality of Aviation Security in view of the current threats and risks facing airlines, airports and travelling public especially with the new emerging forms of threats worldwide.

Reflecting the necessity for a joint Arab framework to promote cooperation amongst Arab states in all aspects of civil aviation in accordance with regional and international agreements and conventions.

The International Arab Civil Aviation Conference declares the following:

1. Call upon the adoption of a joint Arab project to be titled the "Arab Aviation Security Initiative" aims at enhancing Aviation security infrastructure in the Arab region under the umbrella of ACAC, with the support of Arab CAAs and participation of Arab air carriers;

2.   Establish the essential parameters for a joint Arab strategy to promote Arab Aviation Security in accordance with ICAO SARPS. ACAC should conduct a study for that purpose within one year from the date of this conference and provide Arab States with a copy of such study upon completion for their review before the next conference. The study should also consider the following elements;

   a)   Enhance the mechanism and working methods currently used in Aviation Security division at ACAC;

   b)   Develop a proposed framework for Aviation security standardization in the Arab world similar to those applied in regional bodies in North America, Europe, the Far East and Africa; including the preparation of an Aviation security guidance manual so as to harmonize international and national measures and facilitate their implementation by the appropriate authorities; and

   c)   Expedite the approval of the proposed Arab Aviation Security experts panel introduced by ACAC to carry out security surveys, evaluate quality control in Arab airports and air carriers, and to provide the required assistance and support to states in light of audits carried out under the ICAO USAP.

3.   Enhance coordination efforts between the Aviation security committees of ACAC and AACO to provide synergies and take advantage of available resources and establish joint working groups as may be necessary ,

4.   Promote a strategic partnership between all relevant public and private stakeholders in aviation security and ensure their participation in future conferences and meetings In a manner that would increase the efficiency of aviation security at a very cost effective way.

5.   Call upon Arab CAAs and Air carriers to intensify their presence and contribution at international and regional organizations and send their Aviation security officers to exchange knowledge and experience.

6.   Support coordination and cooperation among Arab states and air carriers in Aviation security training and encourage their utilization of accredited ICAO training centers and ICAO standard training packages (STP123).

7.   Enhance joint Arab cooperation in the exchange of aviation security information and expertise between concerned entities through applicable channels.

8.   Invite appropriate Arab authorities to use biometrics in Aviation Security and e-passports in light of its major benefits for security and facilitation at airports and control of personal identification.

9.   Reaffirm the necessity for Arab states to develop and implement their national aviation security programs in accordance with ICAO's annex 17 provision

10. Prepare an ACAC working paper to be presented at the next ICAO assembly on harmonizing the implementation of national, regional, and international aviation security regulations and legislations.

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