ICAO Facilitation Regional Forum

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
7 to 8 July 2025

Dr. Narjess Abdennebi, Chief, Facilitation, ICAO

7 July 2025,

Session 1: Strengthening national facilitation programmes and committees

Hosted by:

GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA

FAL core areas

Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Facilitation

Aircraft

- Specifically addressed in Chapter 2 to Annex 9
- However, all issues relating to immigration, quarantine, customs and clearance affect aircraft movement

Crew

- Primarily addressed in chapters 2, 3 and 6
- Preferential treatment and processes
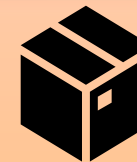- Doc 9303 and Annex 9 – crew identity documents

FAL Core Areas – "to prevent unnecessary delays to …"

Passengers

- Primarily addressed in chapters 3, 5 and 9
- Considerable emphasis through TRIP
- Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), biometrics & passenger data

Cargo

- Primarily addressed in Chapter 2, 4, 6 and 8
- Electronic systems for cargo manifesting and customs clearance

Broad set of National FAL Stakeholders

*Not an exhaustive list

FAL Regional Forum

- CAA / **FAL Lead Agency**
- Immigration/Customs
- Border Agencies
- Aviation Security
- Counter Narcotic
- Public Health
- TD Issuing
- Police / Interpol
- Foreign Affairs
- Agriculture/Veterinary
- Industry

➔ The real challenge is that the majority of FAL topics are outside of the remit of the CAA

➔ The diversity of Facilitation represents both a strength and a challenge

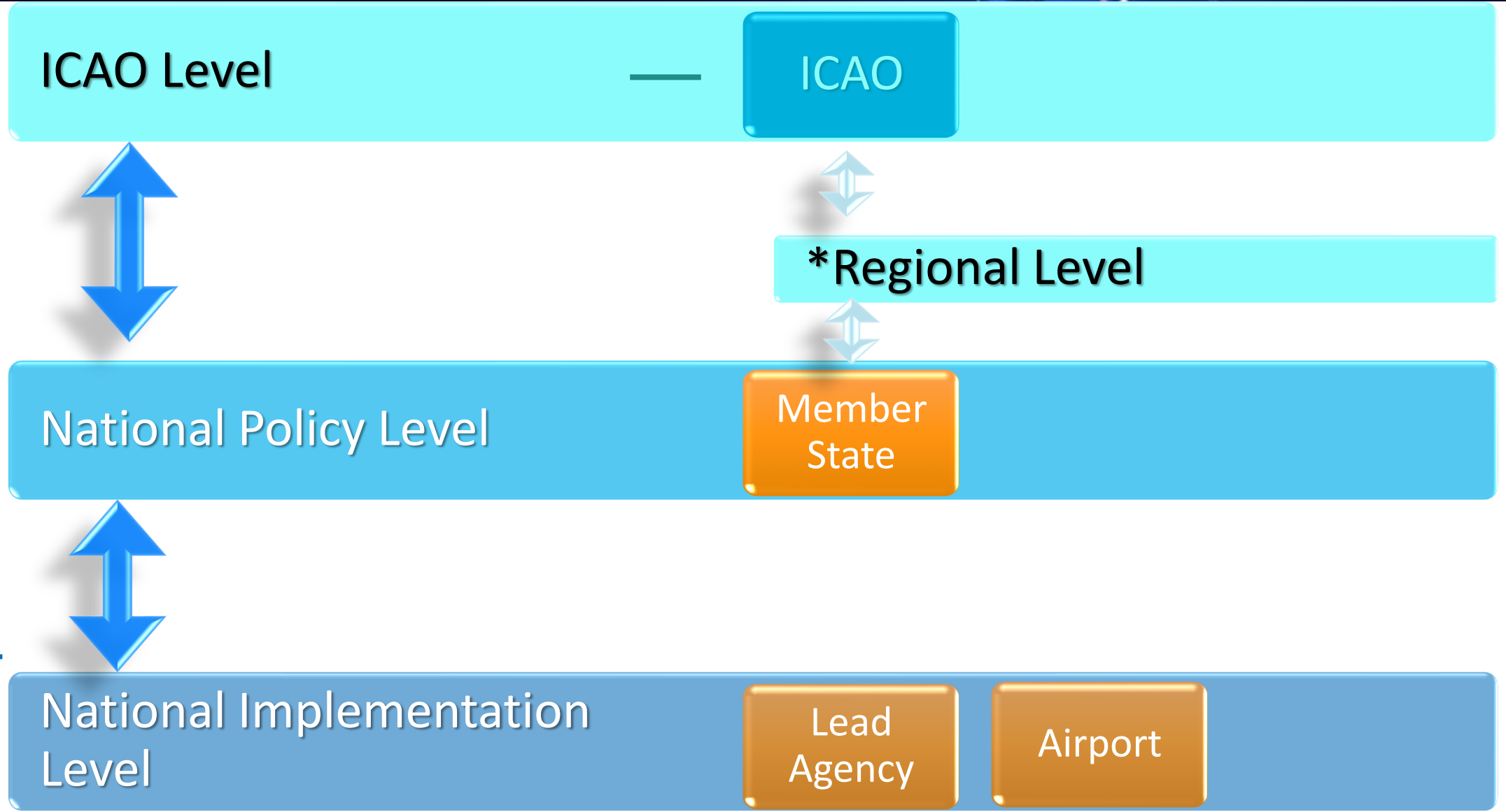- Aircraft Operator
- Airport Operator
- Ground Handlers
- Forwarders and Express Carriers

3

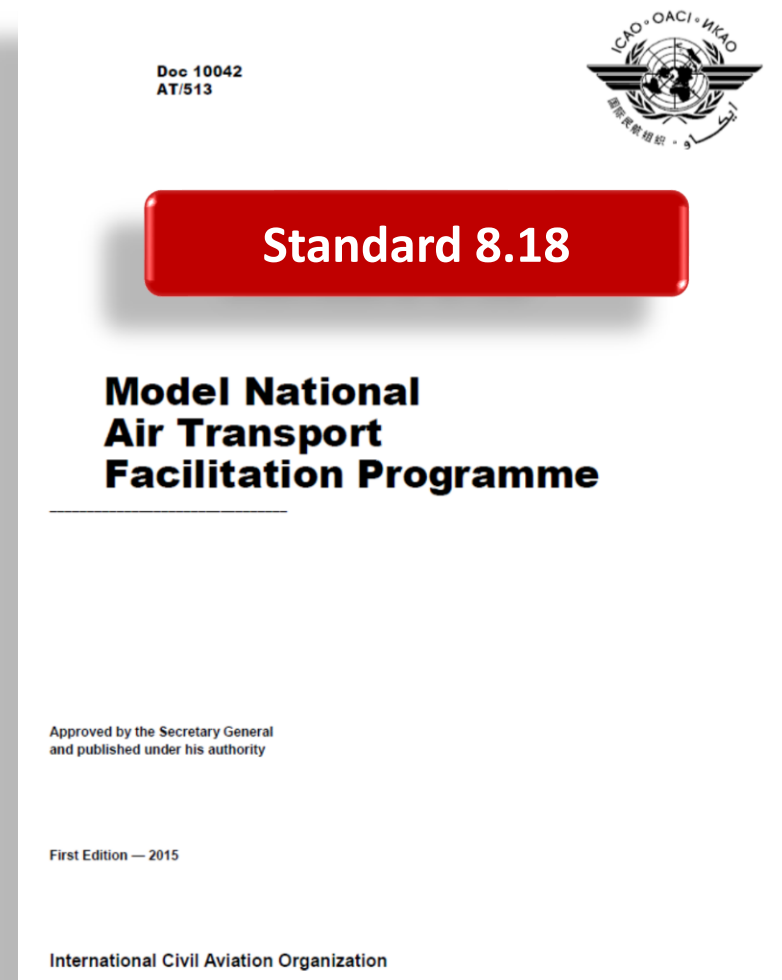# National Air Transport Facilitation Programmes (NATFPs)

❑ NATFP is a means of coordinating activities between departments or agencies of the State concerned with or responsible for various aspects of civil aviation facilitation

❑ FAL Programme provides framework to guide the improvement and optimization of aircraft, crew, passenger and cargo flows through airports and to improve customer service, while maintaining security requirements

❑ Main topics addressed – lead agency, security, customs, immigration, TD issuance, public health, food and agriculture

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Doc 10042
AT/513

Standard 8.18

**Model National
Air Transport
Facilitation Programme**

Approved by the Secretary General
and published under his authority

First Edition — 2015

International Civil Aviation Organization

FAL Programme Objectives

❑ Programmatic coordination of FAL policies to:

⇨ Ensure implementation of Annex 9 SARPs and other international standards (public health, customs, etc.)

⇨ Enhance processes and procedures by removing unnecessary obstacles & delays

⇨ Focus on creating efficiencies

⇨ Improve productivity and service quality

⇨ Support development of innovative strategies

National Facilitation Committees

Standard 8.20

- NATFC provides a forum for consultation and information-sharing about facilitation matters amongst government stakeholders, government representatives of other air transport-related communities and the private sector

- FAL Committee considers recommendations to enhance facilitation

- Main stakeholders include CAA, Border Security & Law Enforcement agencies, Public Health, Ministry of Transport, Foreign Affairs, Travel Document Issuance, Agriculture, Aviation Security, Aircraft Accident Investigation

- Airport Facilitation Committee: coordinates operational FAL activities at the airport

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FAL Committee Objectives

❑ Pro-active management of national FAL Programme

❑ Perform implementation oversight & reporting to ICAO EFOD Compliance Checklist via NCMC

❑ Ensure coordination between stakeholders

❑ Maintain, adjust and implement NATFP in accordance with Annex 9

❑ Discuss proposed changes to international and national regulations

❑ Seek and consider recommendations from Airport level and incorporate them into NATFP

❑ Encourage development of best practices, training and guidance material

❑ Coordinate with Security Committee (NCASC) Contribute to an integrated strategic vision with partnerships

Relationship between FAL Programme and FAL Committee

Model National
Air Transport
Facilitation Programme

The Secretary General
under his authority
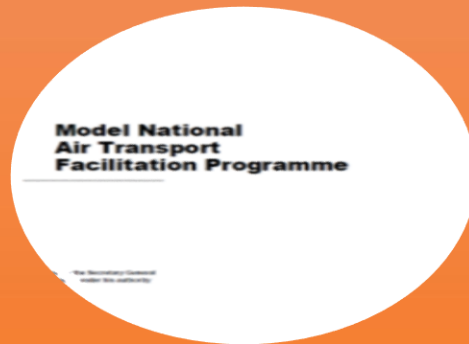
NATIONAL FAL PROGRAMME

Programmatic coordination

of all interests / entities involved in facilitation to promote the growth of a safe, reliable and viable air transport industry.

NATIONAL FAL COMMITTEE

Stakeholder coordination

between relevant ministries, agencies and industry to remove unnecessary obstacles and delays and improve efficiency and service levels of civilian air transport services.

Airport Level FAL Committees

Model National Air Transport Facilitation Programme

The Secretary General under his authority

National FAL Programme

National FAL Committee

Airport Level FAL Programme

Airport Level FAL Committee

❑ Coordinate & implement FAL matters at Airport level

❑ Maintain Airport level FAL Programme

❑ Share best practices with National FAL Committee

Status of implementation of Stds 8.18 and 8.20 in Asia Pacific

Status	Compliance	Differences	No Entry
Standard 8.18	17 States	1 States	21 States
Standard 8.20	16 States	0 States	23 States

Data extracted from the Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) System

FAL Capacity Building Initiatives to enhance Facilitation

ICAO Annex 9 - Facilitation

The ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation* is virtual classroom course that develops competencies relevant to staff from Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) and border control authorities to deal collectively, in an inter-agency manner, with Annex 9's facilitation provisions.

Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families

This course will provide CAA representatives, other government officials, aircraft and airport operators and non-governmental organization with the competencies to effectively support aircraft accident victims and their family assistance efforts, in accordance with ICAO Policy.

Visible Digital Seals for Travel-Related Public Health Proofs

This course provides State authorities with the competencies required to implement a national Visible Digital Seal for Non-Constrained Environments (VDS-NC) solution for travel health proof, in accordance with ICAO Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents, Parts 9-13.

Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy

The course provides to the target audience the competencies to implement the five key elements of the ICAO TRIP strategy, ensuring interoperability and internal cooperation, in accordance with Annex 9.

(NEW)Managing Air Transport Facilitation Course

The course provides the target audience with the competencies required to develop a management system whereby the Coordinating Authority (ies) designated by the State is (are) able to coordinate the required national policy framework, coordinate Facilitation matters with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders and to assess the implementation of Annex 9 SARPs and create a national evaluation framework.

Implementation Package (iPacks)

ICAO currently has four Facilitation-focused iPacks in its catalog, including:

- ✓ Implementing and Establishing the National Facilitation Programme and the Committees-(FAL)
- ✓ Establishing National Facilitation Oversight Mechanisms
- ✓ Visible Digital Seals
- ✓ Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families

And coming soon:

- ✓ Implementing the ICAO TRIP Strategy Roadmap

ICAO TRAINING

The ICAO Facilitation Conference 2025 and Doha Declaration

FACILITATION
CONFERENCE
(FALC 2025)

14 to 17
April 2025
Doha, Qatar

High-level Ministerial Segment
17 April 2025

High-level attendance by 53 Ministers

Adopted Doha Declaration by acclamation

"Facilitation the Future of Air Transport: Collaboration, Efficiency, and Inclusivity."

ICAO Facilitation Regional Forum

Doha Declaration

✈ Underscores the global commitment to enhancing the facilitation of international air transport.

📄 The Draft was Disseminated to Member States as State letter EC 6/54- 24/98 dated 2 December 2024 for their comments and inputs.

🏛 Adoption - High-level Ministerial Segment of FALC 2025

👮 Will be circulated as State letter to Member States and international organizations requested by the ICAO council

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FALC 2025 REVISED DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Doha, Qatar, 17 April 2025

DOHA DECLARATION ON FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT

We, the Ministers, and Heads of Delegation, meeting at the Ministerial Segment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Facilitation Conference (FALC2025) held in Doha, Qatar, on 17 April 2025, in the presence of senior representatives of the aviation industry:

Recalling ICAO Assembly Resolutions A41-17: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies, related to facilitation*, A41-16: *Development and implementation of facilitation provisions — combatting human trafficking*, A41-15: *Accessibility in International Civil Aviation*, A41-14: *Assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families*, A41-12: *Maintaining health and sustaining safe international air transport during public health emergencies affecting air travel*; and A41-11: *Declaration on air transport facilitation affirming global commitment to enable the safe and efficient recovery of aviation from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make aviation more resilient in the future*, that enshrine the global commitment of Member States and ICAO to enhance air transport facilitation;

Affirming the critical role of air transport facilitation in ensuring the efficient and seamless movement of passengers, crew, cargo, and aircraft across borders, and noting the continuing importance of Annex 9 — *Facilitation* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944* (Annex 9) in this regard;

Recognizing the impact of recent global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on the aviation industry and the necessity to incorporate lessons learned and assure a more harmonized global approach to enhance the resilience and future-proofing of international air transport;

Acknowledging the ongoing work of ICAO in leading global efforts to standardize and improve air transport facilitation measures through the development of Annex 9, the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, and the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) programmes, as well as through the establishment of technical specifications, policies, guidance material, capacity building and assistance, and collaboration with relevant international organizations;

Acknowledging that air transport has an essential role in connecting people, facilitating trade, improving sustainable social, and economic, development and consequently the quality of life, while ensuring that international civil aviation continues to contribute to the achievement of the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Emphasizing the need for Member States to support actively ICAO's efforts to improve air transport facilitation through voluntary contributions, including the secondment of staff, and to promote closer collaboration with national and international agencies, including immigration, border control, customs, and public health entities; and

Acknowledging that humanitarian response in major crisis relies heavily on swift transportation aid and relief by air.

Way forward
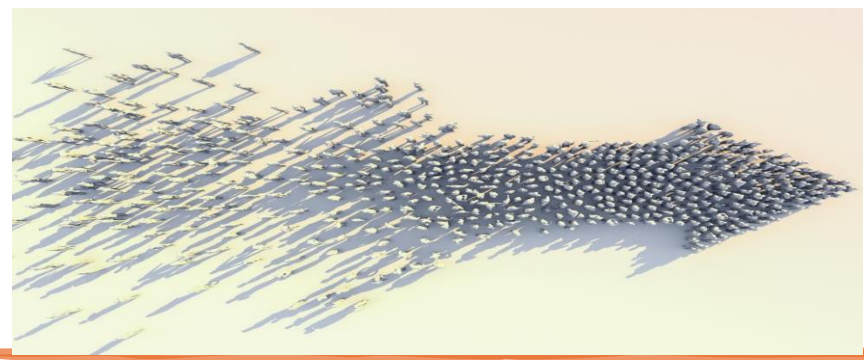
- **Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination**
- Establish centralized national facilitation coordination units
- Hold regular inter-agency meetings and stakeholder forums
- Develop multi-stakeholder agreements with clear roles/responsibilities
- **Best Communication Strategies**
- Leverage digital platforms and secure data-sharing
- Standardize communication protocols
- Implement training programs to align agency practices

- **Implementation of ICAO Annex 9 SARPs**
- Adopt technology-driven solutions
- Strengthen regulatory compliance and monitoring
- Expand policies to address emerging challenges
- **Advancing Global and Regional Collaboration**
- Promote cross-border data-sharing agreements
- Strengthen public-private partnerships
- Encourage harmonized policy development regionally and globally