



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

INFORMATION PAPER

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**Eleventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting
(NACC/DCA/11)**

Varadero, Cuba, 28-30 June 2023

Agenda Item 3: 2022-2023 NACC Regional Office Performance and Accountability Report to the States

PROMOTION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH INNOVATION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information Paper provides an update on the Innovation Workshop that was organized in May 2023 in coordination ICAO NACC and SAM offices with ICAO Headquarters and informs about innovation activities that are planned and ongoing at the moment.

Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1 – Safety
- Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

References:

- Assembly Resolution A40-27 *Innovation in Aviation*

1. Introduction

1.1 Following the adoption of the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation in April 2022, ICAO has been working on the development of a workshop on innovation (<https://www.icao.int/innovation/Pages/default.aspx>). The resulting ICAO Innovation Workshop is aimed at creating a learning opportunity for the aviation community about innovative practices in aviation and generate further thinking within participants' organizations on how to incorporate new technologies in support of a sustainable civil aviation system.

Innovation Workshop

1.2 On May 10-11, 2023, the ICAO Headquarters in coordination with ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices organized an Innovation Workshop. This iteration was conducted in English by Headquarters experts with the assistance of ICAO NACC/SAM Regional Offices on 10 and 11 May 2023, and included a total of 27 participants from Aruba, Barbados, Curaçao, Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and United States. Out of the participants, 60% are currently involved or will be involved in innovation-related activities, and among them, 30% are currently leading such projects. Based on the received feedback, the workshop effectively met participants' needs and surpassed their expectations. The participants' keen interest in the topic indicates

that the aviation community is increasingly recognizing the urgent need to adapt to a rapidly evolving aviation ecosystem. It also demonstrates that ICAO's stakeholders are eager to seize opportunities for developing the necessary knowledge and capabilities to tackle related challenges. A delivery in Spanish has been confirmed for 29 and 30 August 2023 for Spanish speaking CAR/SAM member States

Independent Evaluation on Innovation

1.3 Following the adoption of Assembly Resolution A40-27 *Innovation in Aviation* and the decision of the Council (C-DEC 226/8), the ICAO Secretariat was requested to organize an independent assessment of ICAO's work on innovation. The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) was selected to perform this task, in its capacity as custodian UN agency for the United Nations Innovation Toolkit.

1.4 As part of this work, the UNSSC wishes to assess ICAO's readiness on innovation matters. In the context of the ICAO Secretariat Strategy on Innovation, innovation is "the introduction of new things, ideas, concepts or ways of doing something that is ahead of current thinking and forward-looking. When applied to ICAO, it includes identifying, developing and deploying, in coordination with States, regulators and/or industry partners, more efficient and effective and/or innovative solutions that enhance the ICAO Strategic Objectives, consistent with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), and foster the realization of Supporting Strategies" (<https://www.icao.int/innovation/Documents/ICAO-Sec-Strategy-Innovation.pdf>).

1.5 The Focus Group Discussion will look at the following Dimensions of innovation, endorsed by the ICAO Council (C-DEC 226/8):

- (1) ICAO's interactions with innovators;
- (2) the incorporation of innovation in ICAO's global standards in a timely fashion;
- (3) a review of ICAO standard-making procedures on innovation; and
- (4) the organization of the ICAO Secretariat – openness to technologies and adaption of internal processes.

Innovation Webinars

1.6 The ICAO Innovation Webinar Series showcase innovations in aviation that have the potential to help progress on the ICAO Strategic Objectives, deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and enable the recovery and resilience of the aviation system; Help viewers understand the technologies but also the opportunities and challenges related to the technologies, exploration of its multiple facets and lessons learned from research and business applications that would have an impact on ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) development (<https://www.icao.int/Meetings/innovation-series/Pages/default.aspx>).

ICAO 2024 Innovation Fair

1.7 From 12 to 14 March 2024, ICAO will host the ICAO 2024 Innovation Fair on the theme of "Digital Aviation: the Future is Now". The Fair will allow for representatives of States, international organizations, industry, private sector, academia, aviation research, United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to have substantive conversations on innovation in aviation and how to adjust systems, processes, structures to better ensure future innovation brings value for aviation and beyond.

ICAO Industry Consultative Forum

1.8 On 12 and 13 June 2023, the third meeting of the ICAO Industry Consultative Forum (ICF) enabled a dialogue between industry leaders and the Council on alternative propulsion systems, such as hybrid electric, electric or hydrogen propulsion aircraft.

1.9 The ICAO-Industry Consultative Forum (ICF) was established following the adoption of Resolution A40-27: Innovation in Aviation during the 40th Session of the Assembly. The role of the ICF is to provide strategic insights to the Council on innovations and changes in the aviation sector, in the medium- to long-term. The inaugural meeting of the ICF took place on 29 and 30 June 2021 and was organized as a high-level horizon scanning of the international civil aviation sector. Climate change was identified as an “existential threat” for international civil aviation by the industry and ICAO committed to explore this topic during subsequent ICF meetings.

1.10 On 21 March 2022, the second ICF meeting was dedicated to Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) and Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAFs). To achieve its climate change aspirational goals, ICAO is pursuing a basket of measures including aircraft technology improvements, operational improvements, sustainable aviation fuels, and market-based measures (CORSIA). In the area of aircraft technology improvements, the emergence of full electric propulsion aircraft, hybrid engines, hydrogen-powered aviation systems have the potential to assist the sector in delivering on the global long-term aspirational goal of net zero carbon emission for international civil aviation by 2050, adopted during the 41st Session of the Assembly.

1.11 The objective of the third meeting of the ICF is to discuss the challenges and opportunities offered by alternative propulsion systems for the sector, with possible suggestions on how ICAO could enable their development and deployment through policies, Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and guidance material in the field of international civil aviation. Overall, these efforts support the implementation of Assembly Resolution A40-27 Innovation in Aviation and the decisions taken during the 41st Assembly.