

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 41TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
PROVISIONAL EDITION**

A41-17: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation

Whereas Annex 9 — Facilitation, was developed as a means of articulating the obligations of Member States under Articles 22, 23 and 24 of the Convention and standardizing procedures for meeting the legal requirements referred to in Articles 10, 13, 14, 29 and 35;

Whereas implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 is essential to facilitate the clearance of aircraft, passengers/crew and their baggage, cargo and mail, as well as manage challenges in border controls and airport processes so as to maintain the efficiency of air transport operations;

Recognizing that the restrictions and public health measures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have had a serious impact on the aviation industry and that this impact must be taken into account by ICAO and Member States when making decisions on air transport facilitation;

Reaffirming the commitments made in the Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) among others, the need to ensure a safe, secure, and orderly flow of traffic with operational readiness of aviation, and to ensure the long-term resilience of international aviation and incorporate the lessons learned from the current and past pandemics;

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the Facilitation stream of the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) of October 2021;

Whereas it is essential that Member States continue to pursue the objective of maximizing efficiency and security in such clearance operations; and

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolutions stress the continuing importance of ICAO's work on border control management and security of travel documents in the fight against terrorism.

The Assembly:

1. Resolves that the Appendices attached to this resolution and listed below constitute the consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies related to facilitation, as these policies exist at the close of the 41st Session of the Assembly:

Appendix A — Development and implementation of facilitation provisions

Appendix B — National and international action in ensuring the security and integrity of traveller identification and border controls

Appendix C — National and international action and cooperation on facilitation matters

Appendix D — Passenger Data Exchange Systems

2. Requests the Council to keep the consolidated statement related to facilitation under review and advise the Assembly as appropriate when changes are needed to the statement; and

3. Declares that this resolution supersedes Resolution A40-16: Consolidated statement of continuing policies related to facilitation.

APPENDIX A

Development and implementation of facilitation provisions

Whereas the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and its Optional Protocol, that had been adopted in December 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly, entered into force on 3 May 2008;

Whereas the development of specifications for machine readable travel documents by the Organization has proved effective in the development of systems that expedite the movement of international passengers and crew members through clearance control at airports, while enhancing immigration and other border control authorities compliance programmes;

Whereas the development of a set of standard signs to facilitate the efficient use of airport terminals by travellers and other users has proved effective and beneficial;

Whereas making air travel accessible for all passengers is a key contributor to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Whereas Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) strengthen the border control management process and enhance security by improving the integrity of documents which verify the identity of travellers and air crew;

Whereas such MRTDs also enable high-level cooperation among States to strengthen resistance to passport fraud, including the forgery or counterfeiting of passports, the use of valid passports by impostors, the use of expired or revoked passports, and the use of fraudulently obtained passports;

Whereas the use of MRTDs and other passenger information tools can also be employed for security purposes, by strengthening border control management processes and improving the integrity of documents, adding an important layer to the international civil aviation system, in order to detect terrorists and prevent acts of unlawful interference well before the aircraft boarding process;

Whereas the 38th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2013 resolved that Member States should be encouraged to use the electronic filing of differences (EFOD) system that was developed to address the need for a more efficient means of reporting and researching differences to Standards and Recommended Practices and for replacing the existing paperbased mechanism;

Mindful of the Annex 9 — *Facilitation* components that support both border management and border security objectives which are audited under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP);

Recognizing the importance of Facilitation and the need for adequate human and financial resources to support the Facilitation programme's activities and to assist Member States in implementing the Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 — *Facilitation*;

Recalling the Communiqué of the High-Level Conference on Aviation Security held in Montréal on 29 and 30 November 2018, and the conference's conclusions and recommendations related to border control management.

The Assembly:

1. *Urges* Member States to give special attention to increasing their efforts to implement Annex 9 Standards and

Recommended Practices;

2. *Requests* Member States to implement, to the extent practicable, globally and regionally-harmonized, collaborative, and mutually accepted measures that take into consideration different national circumstances and policies, without creating undue economic burdens or compromising the safety and facilitation of civil aviation, to facilitate the recovery and sustainable development of international passenger travel;

3. *Urges* Member States to give due regard to Doc 9984, *Manual on Access to Air Transport by Persons with Disabilities*, in their implementation of the relevant provisions of Annex 9;

4. *Requests* the Secretary General to develop a work programme on accessibility for passengers with disability in order to reach for a disability-inclusive air transport system;

5. *Requests* the Council to ensure that Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, is current and addresses the contemporary

requirements of Member States, as well as their appropriate obligations towards the United Nations Security Council resolutions with respect to border control management and security of travel documents, their obligations towards the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (2005), the handling of and responses to public health emergencies in addition to Member States' requirements relating to the administration of cargo and passengers; and advances in technologies related to such administration;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to ensure that relevant guidance material is current and responsive to the requirements of Member States;

7. *Requests* the Council to ensure that the provisions of Annex 9 — *Facilitation* relating to border control management, and Annex 17 — *Aviation Security*, are compatible with and complementary to each other;

8. *Urges* Member States to give due regard to existing guidance material and best practices on wayfinding and signage, including Doc 9636, *International Signs to Provide Guidance to Persons at Airports and Marine Terminals*, to the extent it remains applicable;

9. *Urges* Member States to ensure that all relevant agencies and departments that have a role in the implementation of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, including but not limited to, civil aviation administrations, immigration, customs, health, quarantine, travel document-issuing authorities, air traffic control, law enforcement, postal authorities, border police, and foreign affairs, collaborate and coordinate their efforts through the national air transport facilitation committee or similar arrangements, in order that the Annex 9 Compliance Checklist is comprehensively completed in the electronic filing of differences (EFOD) system;

10. *Urges* the Council to ensure that the Facilitation Programmes is treated as a matter of highest priority and appropriate resources are made available by ICAO and its Member States;

11. *Urges* all Member States to continue to financially support the Organization's facilitation activities with voluntary

contributions in the form of human and financial resources beyond those budgeted for under the regular programme; and

12. *Recognizing* the leadership role of ICAO in the area of facilitation activities, requests the Council and the Secretary General to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Organization's facilitation programmes, by taking measures to incorporate the funding requirements within the Regular Programme Budget and ensure adequate human resources are available, as soon as possible and to the extent practicable.