

**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 C

National and international action and cooperation on facilitation matters

Whereas there is a need for continuing action by Member States to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of clearance control formalities;

Whereas the establishment and active operation of national air transport facilitation programmes and facilitation committees is a proven means of effecting needed improvements;

Whereas cooperation on facilitation matters among Member States and with the various national, regional, and international parties, and industry interested in facilitation matters has brought benefits to all concerned;

Whereas such cooperation has become vital in the light of the proliferation of non-uniform passenger data exchange systems that adversely affect the viability of the air transport industry, and the increasing requests by border control authorities for exchange of passenger data;
Whereas the threat of worldwide transmission of communicable diseases by means of air transport has increased in past years;

Whereas Annex 9 provides a framework for the facilitation of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, notably, Standard 8.47 obliging Member States to establish legislation, regulations and/or policies in support of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, and the Recommended Practice for aircraft and airport operators to develop appropriate plans to provide timely and effective assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families;

Whereas cooperation on wildlife trafficking matters among Member States and with the various national, regional, and international parties, and other stakeholders interested in this area has brought benefits to procedures to combat wildlife trafficking.

The Assembly:

1. Urges Member States to establish and utilize national air transport facilitation programmes and facilitation committees and adopt policies of cooperation on a regional basis among neighbouring States;

2. Urges Member States to participate in regional and subregional air transport facilitation programmes of other intergovernmental aviation organizations;
3. Urges Member States to take all necessary steps to ensure the development of a National Air Transport Facilitation Programme, and the establishment of facilitation committees or other appropriate means, for:
 - a) ensuring timely and effective implementation of Annex 9 — Facilitation Standards and Recommended Practices;
 - b) regularly calling the attention of all interested departments of their governments to the need for:
 - 1) making the national regulations and practices conform to the provisions and intent of Annex 9;
 - 2) working out satisfactory solutions for day-to-day problems in the facilitation field;
 - 3) promoting a Facilitation culture;
 - 4) coordination among all relevant agencies, departments of the State, including public health authorities and relevant stakeholders through the implementation of National Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFCs).
 - c) taking the initiative in any follow-up action required; and
 - d) ensuring that the appropriate coordination is in place for the effective implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy.
4. Urges Member States to encourage the study of facilitation problems by their national and other facilitation programmes and committees and to coordinate the findings of their committees on facilitation problems with those of other Member States with which they have air links;
5. Urges neighbouring and bordering Member States to consult one another about common problems that they may have in the facilitation field, whenever it appears that these consultations may lead to a uniform solution of such problems;
6. Urges Member States, aircraft operators, and airport operators to continue to cooperate intensively as regards:
 - a) identification and solution of facilitation problems; and
 - b) developing cooperative arrangements for the prevention of illicit narcotics trafficking, illegal immigration, the spread of communicable diseases, and other threats to national interests;

7. Urges Member States to call upon aircraft and airport operators and their associations to participate in electronic data interchange systems in order to achieve maximum efficiency levels in the processing of cargo traffic at international terminals;
8. Urges Member States to implement the provisions of Annex 9 to facilitate assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, including ensuring that aircraft and airport operators develop appropriate plans to provide timely assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, recognizing that airport operators' plans may form part of the aerodrome emergency plans required under Annex 14;
9. Urges Member States and aircraft and airport operators, in cooperation with interested international organizations, to make all possible efforts to speed up the handling and clearance of air cargo, while ensuring the security of the international supply chain;
10. Requests Member States to consider identifying and designating an appropriate authority or a relevant coordination mechanism for facilitation, and ensure that sustainable funding mechanisms and corresponding human resources are available to support the implementation of facilitation provisions of Annex 9 and related activities;
11. Requests Member States to ratify and implement the Montréal Protocol 2014 and consider the recommendations in the ICAO Manual on the Legal Aspects of Unruly and Disruptive Passengers (Doc 10117);
12. Requests Member States to ensure provision of assistance to persons with disabilities travelling by air and especially take steps to mitigate the barriers that limit the ability of the elderly and persons with disabilities in times of abnormal processes, such as during public health-related emergencies;
13. Urges Member States to ensure that airport facilities are adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, that lifting systems and appropriate devices are made fully available, that designated points for the pick-up and drop-off of persons with disabilities are made available as close as possible to main entrances and/or exits of the terminal building, and that adequate accessible parking facilities are provided for people with mobility needs, including during a public health emergency;
14. Urges Member States to ensure that airport services are made available that meet the needs of passengers with disabilities, including services for provision of flight service-related information to hearing and visually impaired persons;
15. Urges Member States to undertake dialogue and cooperation among national, regional, and international border control and security-related bodies regarding their obligations towards Annex 9 – Facilitation and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

16. Requests the Secretary General to ensure ICAO continues its work on border control management and security of travel documents in the fight against terrorism, and to strengthen its cooperation and collaboration with relevant United Nations (UN) agencies, such as UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and
17. Urges Member States to establish among all involved stakeholders an efficient information-sharing and collaboration system in the prevention of wildlife trafficking.