



ICAO Secretary General calls on UN Security Council for international support of the Global Aviation Security Plan

For immediate release

Montréal and New York, 7 July 2017 – In a comprehensive aviation security update presented today to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu called on this UN prominent body to promote greater international awareness and implementation in aid of ICAO's new *Global Aviation Security Plan* (GASeP).

"This pivotal document, which focuses extensively on the threat of terrorism to civil aviation, has benefitted from extensive inputs on behalf of both governments and Industry," Dr. Liu commented. "Its objectives align with those of UN Security Council Resolution 2309, and once finalized it will be the primary tool by which the aviation security community fulfils its diverse roles."

The new ICAO GASeP is seen as a natural outcome arising from the UN aviation agency's global leadership role in air transport security coordination. The GASeP core objectives are to enhance risk awareness and response, establish a better-defined security culture, refine related technologies while fostering new innovations, and to improve oversight and quality assurance while increasing cooperation among member States, global and local organizations.

It is currently expected to be approved by the ICAO Council at its next Session this November, and in the ensuing months a key priority will be to ramp up related global commitments and outreach.

"All States are therefore encouraged to strengthen their support to ICAO's work on aviation security, ensure the implementation of Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) as a matter of high priority, and cooperate on a global, regional, and national levels to raise the level of effective implementation of global aviation security," Dr. Liu said. "It will only be by virtue of sustained political will, especially at the highest levels of government and industry, that the GASeP will succeed," she stressed.

Adding to her call for UN Security Council GASeP support, Dr Liu highlighted that, "obtaining financial support is another major area where UN entities can assist ICAO. To meet the security targets identified in the GASeP and its associated regional roadmaps, capacity development and technology assistance programmes must expand significantly,"

Dr. Liu took advantage of her presentation to provide new updates to the Security Council on ICAO's work in addressing Resolution 2309 priorities on *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Aviation security*. Since it was adopted in 2016, ICAO has worked to support its objectives by updating its *Global Risk Context Statement*, increasing sector-wide awareness on landside security, explosives detection, and cybersecurity, and through the delivery of risk management workshops and related aviation security capacity-building projects through its *No Country Left Behind* initiative.

"In addition to these developments, this year's adoption of an Advance Passenger Information (API) Standard, which becomes effective on 23 October, 2017, will now make it harder for Foreign Terrorist Fighters to move between States," Dr. Liu added. She also stressed the need to keep an appropriate balance between the necessary level of aviation security and the passenger experience

and the facilitation objectives.

Other priorities discussed during the UN Security Council Session included persistent challenges with respect to sharing key information on recent incidents, and the attack methods discussed in the Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) held this past July, including landside gaps at airport facilities, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Portable Electronic Devices, cybersecurity and Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) – especially with respect to conflict zones.

“Each of these threats potentially generates a new layer of technology requirements, which becomes costly not only in terms of equipment purchase but also in building renovations, training and maintenance requirements, slowdowns in security procedures, and other effects on operations and facilitation,” Dr. Liu highlighted.

In concluding, Dr. Liu remarked that terrorist groups continue to view civil aviation as an attractive target, with the aim of causing substantial loss of life, economic damage and disruption to connectivity between States, and the risk of terrorist attacks against civil aviation may affect all regions and Member States.

“Through key mechanisms such as resolution 2309 (2016) and its supplemental undertakings, we must therefore continue to work together to encourage decision-makers to support these endeavours.”

Security Council members noted that civil aviation remained an attractive target for terrorists and agreed that cooperation must be increased to continuously strengthen security throughout the global air network, under the framework provided by ICAO and the Chicago Convention. They agreed with the importance of information-sharing, cooperation in capacity-building and technical assistance.

The briefing was received positively by the Security Council members, who commended the work of ICAO, congratulated ICAO for having speed-up the development of GASeP and reaffirmed their political support, welcomed the progress of the MoU between ICAO and CTED, and recalled the need to use the ICAO regulatory framework for the Implementation of GASeP, the international expertise of ICAO for capacity-building and training assistance activities

Ambassador Philippe Bertoux, Council Member of France, Chair of the Unlawful Interference Committee, and Mr Saud A. R. Hashem the Council Member of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the Air Transport Committee, respectively covering Security and Facilitation issues were also of Attendance.

ICAO Secretary General held meetings with the newly appointed Under Secretary General of the UN, in charge of the Office for Counter Terrorism, Mr Vladimir Ivanovitch Voronkov and the Secretary General of the UN Mr. António Guterres, and delegations of States members of the Security Council.



ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu delivering her United Nations Security Council briefing today on aviation security and threats to international peace and security caused by terrorists acts. Dr. Liu called on the UN's most powerful body to promote greater international awareness and implementation in aid of ICAO's new *Global Aviation Security Plan* (GaseP), while providing a wide range of updates on ICAO's many efforts being undertaken to further support UN SC Resolution 2309. *Photo: UN Photo/Kim Haughton*

Resources for Editors

About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

[The 2017 ICAO Aviation Security Symposium](#)
[ICAO's Strategic Objective for Security and Facilitation](#)

Contacts

Anthony Philbin

Chief, Communications
aphilbin@icao.int
+1 514-954-8220
+1 438-402-8886 (mobile)
Twitter: [@ICAO](#)

William Raillant-Clark

Communications Officer
wraillantclark@icao.int
+1 514-954-6705
+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)
Twitter: [@wraillantclark](#)
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)