

Report of Online Meeting for the Preparation of the 13th D-8 Experts Working Group Meeting on Civil Aviation held on 21 February 2024

The meeting of the Task Forces of the D-8 Directors-General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation was held virtually on 21 February 2024. The Meeting was hosted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Türkiye and attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Türkiye. List of attendance is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 2- Opening Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, presented his statement which is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 3- Adoption of the Agenda

After discussions, the meeting adopted the agenda attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 4- Discussion & possible cooperation on Multilateral Agreement on Air Services Task Force

Türkiye initiated discussions, announcing that the document would be deliberated upon in the upcoming task force meeting scheduled for May 2024 in Istanbul. Member states were invited to provide their input on the draft agreement. Bangladesh disclosed ongoing analysis of the document and expressed interest in promoting stopovers and air services at specified D-8 Airports.

Indonesia proposed that the Task Forces should focus on defining the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the agreement and conduct a comparative analysis of other international service agreements, such as the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Civil Aviation (CAA). Nigeria requested a copy of the Agreement, for review.

Pakistan stated they had reviewed the agreement and offered insights, particularly emphasizing the need to reconfigure Article VI and suggested appending a number of annexes to the operational framework.

Agenda Item 5- Task force on Commercial Issues:

The host commenced the discussion within this task force and requested feedback from member states. Pakistan pointed out that this task force is new, and as such, the Terms of Reference (TORs) should be established. They proposed discussing this matter in person during the upcoming face-to-face meeting tentatively scheduled in May 2024 in Istanbul.

Agenda Item 6 : Task force on Air Navigation and Air Traffic Management

Indonesia, Iran, and Pakistan contributed to discussions, with Pakistan sharing efforts to reduce traffic separation from 50 miles to 30 miles and ongoing discussions between Pakistan and Iran, in this regard.

Agenda Item 7- Discussion & possible cooperation on Training and Capacity Building Task Force

Türkiye's Head of Training Department, Mr. Feyzullah, expressed the intention to enhance relationships for promoting training, citing Türkiye's status as a leading global airline with the largest airport in Europe and handling a daily average air traffic of 6000 flights. Türkiye expressed a willingness to share its experiences with all member states. Mr. Yusuf, the Coordinator of the Civil Aviation Academy (CAA) of Türkiye, briefed on Türkiye's new aviation cooperation transformation model which he said was focused on smart, useful aviation services and a corporate transportation model.

Bangladesh inquired whether the main purpose of the task force was to enhance member states' capacity in Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), stressing the need for development, particularly in the field of instructor training.

Pakistan expressed readiness to share the annual training programs and timelines of the CAA Institute Hyderabad with all member states and encouraged others to follow suit. They also emphasized the importance of developing qualified instructors and suggested collaborating on training programs, quarterly, with periodic activities.

Malaysia highlighted the courses offered by the Malaysia Aviation Academy for traffic control and rescue and offered to share these courses and the training course calendar during the physical meeting in Istanbul.

The Secretariat proposed that discussions should continue within the Task Forces in order to ensure the success of the event scheduled for May, 2024. It was further suggested that the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Training and Capacity Building Task Force, namely Türkiye and Nigeria should meet virtually to further discuss the issue of training, before the physical meeting scheduled for May in Istanbul.

Nigeria informed the meeting on the establishment of an African Aviation and Aerospace University (AAAU) Abuja, Nigeria in 2022 and expressed willingness to share more details during the May physical meeting.

Bangladesh urged member states to provide a training needs list, emphasizing the importance of sharing it with others, along with lists of instructors. They suggested developing a survey form to collect and analyze training needs for further action.

Agenda Item 8 - Discussion & possible cooperation on National Security Auditor Certification Program.

The host-initiated discussions on potential cooperation regarding the National Security Auditor Certification Program and invited member states to provide their feedback.

Bangladesh expressed a lack of information about the program's usefulness and requested more details from other members. After some explanations were provided by Türkiye, Bangladesh

acknowledged the merit of Türkiye's proposal but highlighted the need for further discussion to customize and develop a comprehensive program, focusing on standardization and capacity enhancement of auditors. Bangladesh committed to continuing discussions, particularly in the upcoming physical meeting in May.

Representative from Türkiye Mr. Cetin Kaya, Head of the Security Program, shared insights from similar programs in the EU, emphasizing their relevance for D-8 countries. He also proposed sharing experiences and inviting members to observe security and audit programs in Türkiye to facilitate the development of a common audit methodology and program aligned with international standards, like ICAO. Türkiye pledged to provide more details to member states before the next meeting and offered assistance in digitalizing the aviation sector through its corporate management model.

Pakistan was requested to share its Corporate Management model, and Türkiye assured they would provide the model and share real-life experiences, during the face-to-face meeting in May.

Agenda Item 9- Next Meeting.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Türkiye has graciously announced the hosting of the upcoming 13th D-8 Expert Working Group meeting of DGCA, tentatively scheduled for May 2024 in Istanbul, to be conducted in physical format. The Directorate of Turkish Civil Aviation proposes a two-day meeting, tentatively set for the last week of May 2024. For further deliberation on the proposed date, the DGCA of Türkiye will coordinate with the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General suggested involving the private sector in the upcoming physical meeting, and Türkiye graciously endorsed the proposal.

Closing of the Meeting:

The Chair and the Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the participants for their valuable contributions to the meeting. The two dignitaries expressed hope that the next meeting planned in Istanbul would yield tangible results.

The representatives from member states and the Secretary-General extended appreciation to the host for organizing the meeting and for arranging the participation of Experts from member states.

Annex I

S/N	Full Name	Position	Institution	Country	Email address	Phone
1.	Mrs. Rocksinda Farhana	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism	Bangladesh	dsca2@mocat.gov.bd	+8801712901990
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11.	Hannan Amini		Iran Civil Aviation Authority	Iran		
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			Aerospace Development			
18.	Dr (Mrs) Anastasia Gbem	Director, Human Resource & Administration	Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)	Nigeria	Anastasia.gbem@ncaa.gov.ng	+234 703 6741590
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28.	Mr. M. Suleiman Ghouri	DD AT (IR)	Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority	Pakistan		
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**WELCOME STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR IMAM,
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DEVELOPING-8 ORGANIZATION FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AT THE D-8 CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS
MEETING (VIRTUAL) 21-22 FEBRUARY 2024**

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to participate in the D-8 Civil Aviation Experts Level Meeting today.

On behalf of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), I would like to welcome all the participants from our member states. This meeting is taking place sequel to the 12th Meeting of the D-8 Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities (D-8 DGCA) held in Bali, Indonesia in October 2022, where it was decided that the D-8 Civil Aviation Task Forces should be meeting on a regular basis to enhance cooperation in the civil aviation sector of the D-8.

Before I proceed, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye for organizing this meeting to deepen cooperation in the civil aviation track of cooperation in the D8. By accepting to host this meeting, the Government of Türkiye has, once again, demonstrated its commitment to engender cooperation in the aviation sector among the D-8 countries.

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Frankly speaking, the role of air transportation in facilitating national and global economic growth cannot be over emphasised. The aviation industry is one of the major industries that employs large numbers of highly skilled workers in most countries of the world, including the

D-8. It is for these reasons that we at the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) place strong emphasis on civil aviation cooperation among our member states to enhance trade and economic development. Further to that, we have prioritized civil aviation because our member countries are not contiguous, but spread across three continents.

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our organization has recorded some modest achievements in the civil aviation sector, since the establishment of the transportation track of cooperation in 2007. For instance:

- We have successfully convened 12 meetings of the D-8 Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- We have organized Workshops and Capacity Building programs in some Member States.
- Also, we have established 4 Civil Aviation Task Forces, namely; **Commercial Issues, Air Navigation & Air Traffic Management, Training and Capacity Building and, Safety and Security.**

However, given the huge potential that abounds in the aviation sector, there is still room for us to improve on our cooperation in the civil aviation sector. Therefore, today's meeting will address some important issues that would help to strengthen our cooperation in the aviation sector, particularly in areas such as, Multilateral Agreement on Air Services, Training and Capacity Building and the D-8 National Security Auditor Certification Program.

For instance, the Multilateral Agreement on Air Services within the D-8 framework will enable us to streamline air travel regulations and promote collaboration in the aviation industry in the D8. Similarly, discussion on Training & Capacity Building will enable us share best practices,

expertise, and resources to strengthen the skills and competencies of individuals across various sectors in the aviation industry.

The Republic of Türkiye, as the chair of the Task Force on Training & Capacity Building, has shown commitment and willingness to share experience with member states in the area of training and capacity building. I urge other member states to follow suit by organizing training programs for officials of the D-8 Civil Aviation Authorities in their respective countries.

Also, the National Security Auditor Certification Program aims to enhance the capabilities of auditors responsible for assessing security measures at airports and aviation facilities in our Member States. By facilitating discussions and potential cooperation in this area, we can bolster our collective efforts to mitigate security risks, combat emerging threats, and uphold the highest standards of safety and security in aviation.

In conclusion, **Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**, I encourage all our participants to engage actively and agree on actionable outcomes in today's meeting.

May I also use this opportunity to kindly request the Directorate General of the Civil Aviation and Infrastructure of Türkiye to consider hosting the physical meeting of the D-8 DGCA later this year. This will enable us to solidify the decisions made during today's meeting, and further strengthen our partnership in the civil aviation track of cooperation.

We at the Secretariat, look forward to a focused discussion and a solid outcome that can be presented for implementation at the 13th D-8 DGCA Meeting later this year.

Thank you, and I wish you all fruitful discussions and successful outcomes.

**Online Meeting for the Preparation of the 13th D-8 Experts Working Group Meeting 21
February 2024, 11:00 (Istanbul Time GMT+3)**

11:00 Welcome Speech

11:05 Introduction of Delegates

11:10 Discussion & possible cooperation on Multilateral Agreement on Air Services Task
Force

11:30 Discussion & possible cooperation on Training and Capacity Building Task Force

12:00 Discussion & possible cooperation on National Security Auditor Certification Program

12:30 Wrap up

12:45 Closing

NOTE: Microsoft Teams will be used during the meeting and the link will be sent to the
participants in due time.