

## MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

### INPUT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) supports the counter-terrorism objectives set out in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/75 “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, by enhancing the security of the international civil aviation system through international legal instruments on counter-terrorism and through development and review of the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 17 – *Aviation Security* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944).

ICAO continues to promote the universal adoption of the *Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation* (Beijing Convention 2010), which entered into force on 1 July 2018. The Beijing Convention criminalizes acts of using civil aircraft for the purpose of causing death, serious bodily injury or serious damage; of using civil aircraft to release or discharge any biological, chemical or nuclear (BCN) weapon or similar substances to cause death, serious bodily injury or serious damage; and of using any BCN weapon or similar substances on board or against civil aircraft. It further criminalizes the unlawful transport of any BCN weapon, related material or other dangerous material. The Beijing Convention has 46 States Parties, and the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly, through Resolution A41-18: *Consolidated statement on continuing ICAO policies related to aviation security* and Resolution A41-4: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field*, urged States that have not ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

To facilitate States’ assessment of risks faced by civil aviation security, ICAO periodically issues updates to its publication *Aviation Security Global Risk Context Statement* (Doc 10108 — Restricted), which includes an assessment of the global aviation threat picture, a description of the different threat scenarios that are considered, the utilized methodology, and the obtained risk levels. The third edition of Doc 10108 was published in all ICAO languages in 2022 and provides States and other stakeholders with risk information arising from threat scenarios including but not limited to attacks using Remotely Piloted Aircraft System on aviation targets; aircraft used as a weapon; chemical threats; missiles and other attacks from distance (in and outside conflict zones); and biological and radiological threats.

Other guidance material includes the 13th edition of the ICAO *Aviation Security Manual* (Doc 8973 — Restricted), published in English in December 2022 with other ICAO languages to follow. This document incorporates new and updated guidance material on prohibited items list, one-stop security arrangements, lower-risk airports, reporting of aviation security occurrences and incidents, aircraft operator security programmes and supplementary station procedures, and on items or equipment affected by security screening technologies. Furthermore, it contains new best practices in aviation security such as the Insider Threat Toolkit.

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