



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 26: ICAO Civil Aviation Training and Capacity Building

**“TRAINAIR PLUS” COURSE ON ICAO POLICY ON ASSISTANCE TO AIRCRAFT
ACCIDENT VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

(Presented by Air Crash Victims’ Families’ Federation International)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2015, the Air Crash Victims’ Families’ Federation International (ACVFFI) has been aware of the data from the States Member of the not fully satisfactory results on the implementation of the ICAO *Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families* (Doc 9998) and the *Manual on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families* (Doc 9973). ACVFFI proposed establishing a new Course in the TRAINAIR Plus Programme (TPP) that would help civil aviation authorities and actors understand and implement the ICAO Victim Assistance Policy. As well as encouraging airport operators, airlines and actors involved in emergency and rescue work (firefighters, health personnel, State security forces) to have assistance plans. This proposal was impartial and credible because it could no longer benefit any ACVFFI member.

After repeated requests, in June 2022, the validation delivery of the new ICAO "Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families: Virtual Classroom" Course was held. The expectation was that the Course would focus on the collaboration of the various aviation actors in the development of a State Plan (including the roles of Airports and Airlines) for Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families. While the Course validation did not meet our full expectations, it is a first step in promoting the ICAO policies on this subject. We have made suggestions which require a number of improvements, as well as a push from senior ICAO officials to support and promote the course.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Urge ICAO to provide sufficient resources to have experts from the ICAO Policy on Victim Assistance;
- b) Request ICAO to enable the participation of experts recognized for their experience to balance the interests of States Member and International Organizations with the ICAO Policy on Victim Assistance; and
- c) Urge States, International Airlines and Airports Organizations to promote the participation of their respective responsible individuals to the TPP Course on the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families.

¹ English and Spanish versions provided by Air Crash Victims’ Families’ Federation International.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective: Safety
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Increase the budget of the TDA for this Course with donations from the States and International Organizations that want to participate.
<i>References:</i>	Resolutions A39-27: Assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families Annex 9 – <i>Facilitation</i> Annex 19 – <i>Safety Management</i> 6.3 Final Recommendations of Report Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Conclusions and Recommendations of the ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (AAAVF 2021) - held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, from December 1 to 3, 2021 - identified the importance of adequate assistance to the victims from the early stages of the accident.

1.2 The A40-WP/60 reported that only 25% of the Member States provided information in ICAO's Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) System on the implementation of Recommended Practice 8.46 and recent USOAP audits verified it, in all cases the result was negative.

1.3 In November 2022, Standard 8.46 of Annex 9 will come into force. Therefore, the evaluations on the implementation of family assistance plans from the Member States are to be increased. It is very important the States have training personnel on the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Final Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Facilitation Panel (FALP) includes some aspects of the debate on Working Paper 2 (FALP10-WP/2), paragraph 3.2.1.3 "Some delegations suggested that the Secretariat should continue its outreach activities to encourage Member States to provide information on the implementation of RP 8.46".

2.2 During the 39th Session of the Assembly (A39), the importance of having an appropriate victim assistance plan was reiterated to the States, considering the guidance (Doc 9973) and the ICAO Policy (Doc 9998) (Resolution A39-27).

2.3 The Report of the ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain) from December 1 to 3, has paragraph 6.3 with 30 Recommendations which were approved by the Council in its session on February 21, 2022, in which the essential assistance to victims and families by the agents involved in air transport is reiterated: States, Airport Operators, Airlines, etc.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 It is considered important that States prepare to appropriately assist the air accident victims and their families in the event of an aircraft disaster, as ACVFFI reiterated in 40A-WP/147. In addition, ICAO's initiative and actions in recent years are greatly appreciated and the conclusions and recommendations of the ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and Families held in December 2021 were very favourably received by civil aviation stakeholders.

3.2 To this end, the States, Airports, and Airlines are urged, through their International Associations, to include Victim Assistance in a concrete and specific manner in the Emergency Plans of the Airports and Airlines of the Contracting States.

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