



PNG Aviation Safety & Security Conference
APEC Haus, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
5 October 2026

DISCUSSION PAPER

Agenda: Economic Development of Air Transport
Title: A Data-Driven and Resilient Economic Development Agenda for PNG Air Transport
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SUMMARY

This discussion paper proposes a national response to DGCA/61 economic development outcomes, including ICAO taxation principles, preparations for ATConf/7, consumer protection, data governance, crisis preparedness and proportionate adoption of emerging regulatory tools.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 61st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Region, produced 84 Conference outputs, comprising 19 Core Action Items, 44 Recommendations and 21 Acknowledgements/Conclusions. ICAO APAC has requested States/Administrations to review applicable Action Items and report implementation progress through the DGCA Conference Action Items Tracker Portal no later than 31 August 2027.

PNG's DGCA61 interventions identified regional cooperation, safety intelligence, digital transformation, PSIDS implementation support, GNSS resilience, cybersecurity and climate resilience among PNG's priority interests.

The 11th Annual Aviation Safety & Security Conference provides an opportunity for PNG aviation leaders to convert those regional outcomes into nationally owned actions, with clear accountability, practical deliverables and a mechanism for sustained follow-up.

2.0 DISCUSSION

ICAO State Letter AP112/26 (TC), dated 21 September 2026, requires States/Administrations to follow up applicable DGCA/61 Action Items and submit implementation progress through the online reporting tool no later than 31 August 2027. This Discussion Paper therefore distinguishes monitored Core Action Items from non-binding Recommendations and aligns national follow-up accordingly.

The objective is to move decisively from conference endorsement to execution through a nationally governed delivery programme that assigns executive accountability, establishes measurable deliverables, directs resources to priority implementation gaps, draws strategically on regional support mechanisms and produces auditable evidence of progress and operational benefit.

International taxation and policy: Implement Action Item 61/06 by maintaining PNG policy consistency with the existing ICAO international air transport taxation framework and supporting ICAO-consistent positions in relevant international processes. Lead/coordination: Government / CASA PNG. Outcome: a coherent national policy position consistent with the ICAO taxation framework.

ATConf/7 preparation: Consolidate PNG priorities on connectivity, consumer protection, airport slots where applicable, airline restructuring and data-driven regulation; maintain a nominated air-transport/data focal point. Lead/coordination: CASA PNG with Government and industry. Outcome: a single evidence-based PNG air transport position for international engagement.

Data-driven regulation: Develop common data definitions, governance and priority indicators for economic oversight and market monitoring, integrated where practical with wider regulatory assurance. Lead/coordination: CASA PNG / industry. Outcome: more consistent evidence for policy and regulatory decisions.

Crisis preparedness and passenger outcomes: Develop a cross-sector aviation economic resilience framework and review passenger information/protection arrangements against ICAO Core Principles. Lead/coordination: Government / CASA PNG / operators / airports. Outcome: improved continuity planning and clearer passenger outcomes during disruption.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSURANCE

- a) Require the PNG Aviation Facilitation and Security Discussion Group to establish a PNG DGCA/61 implementation coordination mechanism and a single national register mapped to the ICAO DGCA Conference Action Items Tracker Portal, with accountable sponsor, action owner, supporting entities, milestones, evidence of completion and the applicable ICAO reporting mechanism/frequency.
- b) Require each lead organisation to translate endorsed actions into funded corporate, regulatory, operational or investment work plans, with defined deliverables and implementation evidence rather than stand-alone conference commitments.
- c) Create a formal escalation pathway for cross-agency barriers, legal constraints, capability gaps and unfunded requirements; package priority gaps into implementation-support proposals for ICAO, PASO and development partners where appropriate.
- d) Institute periodic national implementation reviews by designated leads and use the Annual Aviation Safety & Security Conference as a leadership assurance checkpoint, while ensuring progress on applicable DGCA/61 Action Items is submitted through the ICAO APAC online reporting tool no later than 31 August 2027.

4.0 ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

The conference is invited to:

- a) Endorse development of a PNG Air Transport Economic Development and Resilience Framework.
- b) Support a standing national air transport/data coordination mechanism and common focal point.
- c) Support PNG advocacy for ICAO-consistent taxation and proportionate consumer protection.
- d) Request the PNG Aviation Facilitation and Security Discussion Group to provide measurable updates on connectivity, resilience and data-governance actions, including applicable DGCA/61 tracker reporting by 31 August 2027.

Expected leadership outcome: A nationally governed delivery mechanism that converts DGCA/61 commitments into assigned, resourced and auditable actions, with leadership visibility of progress, barriers, residual risk and practical benefits across the PNG aviation system.