



PNG 11th Aviation Safety & Security Conference
APEC Haus, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
 5 October 2026

DISCUSSION PAPER

Agenda: National Air Transport Facilitation Programme - Governance, Implementation and National Coordination
Title: Governance, Implementation and National Coordination
Organisation: Department of Transport
Presenter: Mr. Bradley Maragau, Policy Aviation Officer.

SUMMARY

This discussion paper seeks leaders' views on how Papua New Guinea can use the National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP), issued on 14 May 2025 as Revision 2, as an active national delivery mechanism for ICAO Annex 9 facilitation requirements. It invites discussion on strengthening the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, airport-level implementation, accountable annual work programming, and coordinated national follow-up to relevant DGCA/61 facilitation outcomes, particularly passenger data and inadmissible passengers.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Papua New Guinea's NATFP was developed with reference to ICAO Annex 9 - Facilitation, Annex 17 - Security, relevant ICAO guidance material and national legislation. Its purpose is to guide improvement and optimization of aircraft, crew, passenger and cargo flows while maintaining appropriate security requirements and compliance with applicable international and national requirements.

The NATFP identifies the Department of Transport & Infrastructure as the authority responsible for development, implementation and maintenance of the Programme and for establishing the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee. The National FAL Committee is chaired by the Secretary of Transport, while CASA PNG provides Secretariat services under the Programme's Rules of Procedure.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The National FAL Committee is established to implement and manage the NATFP. Its terms of reference include inter-agency coordination, implementation of the Programme, consideration of facilitation recommendations, development of good practices, consideration of regulatory changes, dissemination of relevant ICAO facilitation developments and coordination with the National Civil Aviation Security Committee on security-related facilitation matters.

The NATFP provides that the National FAL Committee lays down its priorities and work agenda through an annual work programme, may use dedicated subgroups, and receives operational updates from Airport Facilitation Committees. The Rules of Procedure provide for at least two National FAL Committee meetings each year.

The Programme also requires coordination between facilitation and aviation security arrangements to avoid duplication and ensure timely resolution of matters affecting both areas.

DGCA/61 did not adopt a Core Action Item under the Aviation Security and Facilitation category. It nevertheless issued Recommendations REC-20 to REC-23. Of particular

relevance to the NATFP are REC-22, covering national passenger data programmes, API/PNR, a Passenger Data Single Window and interoperable digital identity solutions, and REC-23, concerning Annex 9-aligned management of inadmissible passengers and collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

ICAO State Letter AP112/26 (TC), dated 21 September 2026, asks States/Administrations to review DGCA/61 outcomes and provide completion or progress updates on applicable Action Items through the DGCA Conference Action Items Tracker Portal no later than 31 August 2027.

The NATFP already provides an established national governance platform for facilitation. The immediate leadership opportunity is to use that platform as an active delivery mechanism linking policy, operational implementation, measurable actions and evidence, while coordinating closely with aviation security governance where issues overlap.

Priority leadership attention should therefore be directed to maintaining effective national coordination, translating the annual work programme into accountable deliverables, supporting airport-level implementation, and using the national governance arrangements to coordinate relevant DGCA/61 facilitation outcomes.

3.0 ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

The conference is invited to:

- a. Discuss and provide guidance on strengthening use of the National FAL Committee as the principal national coordination and delivery forum;
- b. Discuss translating the annual work programme into clearly owned, measurable deliverables;
- c. Discuss strengthening the two-way link between Airport Facilitation Committees and national decision-making;
- d. Discuss coordinating national consideration and follow-up of applicable DGCA/61 facilitation outcomes through the NATFP governance framework; and
- e. Discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

References: PNG National Air Transport Facilitation Programme, Rev. 2, 14 May 2025; ICAO State Letter AP112/26 (TC), 21 September 2026.