

**ASSOCIATION OF ASIA PACIFIC AIRLINES  
RESOLUTION NO. 7  
Series of 2019**

**A RESOLUTION ON ACCESSIBILITY OF AIR TRAVEL**

The AAPA ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS, in its 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting duly assembled,

RECOGNISING THAT:

- I. Air travel is now an essential means of transport with over four billion passengers travelling worldwide by air annually;
- II. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and entered into force on 3 May 2008;
- III. ICAO has identified that making air travel accessible for all passengers is a key contributor to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- IV. Implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices in Annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation ("Chicago Convention") is essential to facilitate the clearance of aircraft, passengers and their baggage, cargo and mail in airports and across borders so as to maintain the efficiency of air transport operations;
- V. Government agencies, including immigration, customs and health departments, together with airport authorities, play a key role in all countries in facilitating the smooth flow of passengers and cargo transported by air, and in removing the barriers and challenges that hamper access to reliable, safe and secure air transportation services for all passengers, including passengers with disabilities;
- VI. The 40<sup>th</sup> ICAO Assembly passed Resolution A40-16 calling on ICAO to develop a work programme on accessibility for passengers with disabilities in order to aim for a disability-inclusive air transport system;

- VII. Airlines are continuously improving the quality of their service offerings to the wider travelling public, including to passengers with disabilities, with the aim of delivering a seamless travel experience that is safe, reliable and dignified;

NOTING THAT:

- VIII. Many governments, border control agencies and airports have introduced a variety of different policies or requirements for the facilitation of air passengers with disabilities;
- IX. These policies or requirements are typically uncoordinated, often with extra-territorial impact, creating overlapping and conflicting entitlements resulting in confusion for air passengers and operational difficulties for airlines and other service providers;

BELIEVING THAT:

- X. A more consistent international approach to accessibility issues in aviation would simplify and improve the overall air travel experience for passengers with disabilities;
- XI. Such initiatives should not reduce the incentive for airlines to innovate and offer customers differentiated service choices;

RESOLVES:

- XII. TO CALL on governments to recognise the responsibilities of multiple stakeholders including regulatory agencies, airports, airlines, ground handlers and other service providers in developing a more seamless travel experience for the wider travelling public;
- XIII. TO CALL on governments to work closely with other aviation stakeholders towards a shared long term vision of harmonised international practices on the facilitation of passengers with disabilities;

XIV. TO CALL on governments to support ICAO efforts to develop a work programme on improving accessibility for passengers with disabilities, in a safe, secure and dignified manner, using evidence-based approaches that are practical and cost-effective.

APPROVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2019.

Certified correct:



ANDREW HERDMAN  
Director General

Attested by:



AUGUSTUS TANG  
AAPA Chairman – 2019