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Agenda Item 32 : Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOs)

INITIATIVES ON THE CREATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

(Presented by the Republic of Turkey)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Referring to the ICAO C-WP/13404, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Turkey took initiatives to enhance cooperation in its region. By harmonizing rules and procedures that regulate civil aviation the region aims to improve current aviation standards and to establish a common aviation system without jeopardizing flight safety and aviation security as well as taking into consideration environmental aspects.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

Take note of the initiatives of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Turkey to develop regional cooperation activities, in compliance with ICAO's strategic objectives and regional aviation policy.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aviation is one of the main driving forces for economic development and an important indicator of social welfare. The aviation sector is highly dynamic and grows rapidly in parallel with globalization and advances in technology.

1.2 As globalization has transformed trends in many fields, in particular, transportation, communication, economy and commerce, States have realized the importance of eliminating limitations and obstacles that lie in its path.

1.3 The mobility of capital, knowledge and a trained labor force in the world has reached unprecedented levels in history. Today, all humans' settlements around the globe are mutually accessible, regardless of the distance between them. It is an undeniable fact that aviation has made a tremendous contribution to the development of political, commercial and cultural relations between nations.

1.4 In addition to being a founder member of ICAO and European Civil Aviation Conference, Turkey is also an active member of Eurocontrol, the European safety organization for air navigation since 1989. Turkey has actively contributed to and supported the projects, programmes and activities of these organizations with a special focus on safety, security, environment and ATM issues. This supportive approach was also valid for the Joint Aviation Authorities, until its closure at the end of June 2009.

1.5 Turkey, as a European State, in addition to its contributions through its membership in Eurocontrol Provisional Council Coordinating Committee (PCC), also plays an active role as a member of the ECAC Coordinating Committee and Board Member of the JAA-TO. Further to the tasks and contributions outlined above, Turkey has also taken the lead in the launching and developing a number of regional initiatives, thus enhancing its instrumental role as a bridge.

1.6 This bridging role is essential for European aviation, as Turkey has assumed the important task of expanding the European aviation system to other States in its region. In this context, for example, Turkey has actively provided training opportunities to member states of regional organizations such as the Developing-Eight (D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation – Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey), the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and the Turkey Middle-East Aviation Working Group (TMAG), as will be explained in detail later.

2. TURKEY'S ROLE IN THE REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES

2.1 Turkish civil aviation continues its endeavors and efforts to create a civil aviation sector that is capable of carrying passengers to any destination in the world by providing them the safest, most secure and comfortable, as well as environmentally sensitive services.

2.2 In addition to the ongoing growth of the domestic sector, Turkey has attached special importance to being an active and effective actor in the international arena, with special emphasis on developing close cooperation on a regional scale with neighboring States.

2.3 Turkey actively contributes to cooperative activities in the aviation field within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), TRACECA, the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and with Mediterranean States. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Turkey assumed additional responsibilities as Head of the Aviation Group in international organizations such as the D-8 and the TMAG within the framework of regional cooperation activities.

2.4 Turkey not only has a leading role in regional aviation but also serves the global civil aviation system through cooperation activities with States in the Black Sea Region, the Balkans, the Middle East, the Mediterranean Region, Africa and Asia.

2.5 Agreements encouraging member States to enhance cooperation in any sphere of civil aviation have great importance in terms of improving maintenance and training levels in the region, in addition to their contribution to the development of global aviation system, which is also in line with the objectives of ICAO.

3. REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES

3.1 Cooperation Activities for TRACECA (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)

3.1.1 The Turkish Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) hosted a meeting on 30 and 31 March 2007 in Antalya, aimed at establishing and developing regional cooperation among TRACECA member States in civil aviation issues.

3.1.2 Participant States stated their appreciation and satisfaction for Turkey's initiative on civil aviation which had been somewhat neglected among TRACECA member States and also expressed their support for such initiatives and the need for Turkey to maintain its leading role.

3.1.3 The assessment of the meeting was concluded with emphasis on the requirement for cooperation regarding flight safety, aviation security, rule making activities and legal aspects. To this effect, a Memorandum of Understanding was issued to cooperate in surveillance and inspection capacities of the member States, certification and licensing, technical and flight training operations, aircraft maintenance and related topics, aeronautical services and ATM, airport infrastructures and terminal and ground services.

3.2 The D-8 States Cooperation Activities (Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey)

3.2.1 The D-8 Organization was founded on 15 June 1997. The first meeting in the field of civil aviation under the auspices of this organization was held at the level of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the D-8 members on 28 to 29 June 2007 in Antalya, Turkey. Civil Aviation Authorities of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan participated in the meeting.

3.2.2 Civil aviation was introduced in the fields of cooperation of the D-8 States in the Memorandum of Understanding signed during the second meeting which was held in Isfahan (Iran) from 8 to 10 September 2007 under the leadership of Turkey. Furthermore, Turkey was elected as the Chairman of Civil Aviation Working Group created under D-8 Organization for the 2008 to 2010 periods.

3.2.3 The 3rd Session of this working group, organized under the leadership of Turkey to establish cooperation in civil aviation among D-8 States was held from 17 to 18 June 2008 in Indonesia and this initiative has already started to yield promising outcomes and continues to develop in line with its purpose.

3.3 Mediterranean States Regional Cooperation Initiative (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, TRNC, Tunisia and Turkey)

3.3.1 The 1st Session of the Civil Aviation Organizations of the Mediterranean States was hosted by the Turkish DGCA in Antalya from 14 to 15 June 2007. The Directors General of the Tunisian, Libyan, Syrian, Algerian and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) participated in the meeting.

3.3.2 Underlying the need for coordination in civil aviation activities in the region to make the best possible contribution to global flight safety, the meeting created a consensus among the participating States regarding the establishment of a new mechanism for guaranteeing close cooperation and coordination in the civil aviation field.

3.4 Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) Cooperation Initiatives (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine)

3.4.1 Civil Aviation Authorities of member States of BSEC Organization came together in Istanbul from 15 to 16 February 2008 for a meeting hosted by Turkish DGCA. This meeting was the first meeting organized among the member States of BSEC Organization to establish and develop regional cooperation regarding civil aviation issues under the leadership of Turkey.

3.4.2 The meeting, organized in line with the decision taken during BSEC Ministerial Meeting held in Istanbul in 2007 to include civil aviation in the cooperation of Black Sea region, has major importance for joint action of the member States with a view of ensuring global flight safety.

3.5 Regional Cooperation Initiative with AFCAC (Turkey and 48 African AFCAC Member States)

3.5.1 A Conference was organized by the Turkish DGCA from 15 to 17 June 2009 in Istanbul with the participation of the Civil Aviation Authorities of twelve out of forty-eight AFCAC member States (namely Chad, Comoros Union, Côte D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Somali, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia).

3.5.2 At the end of the conference, a cooperation agreement was signed with AFCAC States selecting Turkey as model country for strengthening their civil aviation systems and air traffic infrastructures.

3.5.3 Within the framework of this agreement concluded between Turkey and 48 African States represented by AFCAC, the parties agreed to cooperate with regard to navigation services, ATM

issues, safety, security, expert exchange and legislative regulations, training opportunities, maintenance and repair services, airport infrastructures, terminal and ground services.

3.5.4 It was unanimously agreed to have further cooperation in the international arena, including ICAO, on sharing the safety data as well as search and rescue activities, accident investigation and the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA).

3.6 Turkey Middle-East Aviation Group (TMAG) Cooperation Initiatives (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey)

3.6.1 The first meeting was held in Antalya from May 15 to 16, 2009 with the participation of the Directors General of the Civil Aviation Organizations of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Turkey. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed and a decision taken to name the group to be established, as the Turkey Middle-East Aviation Group (TMAG).

3.6.2 During the second meeting held in Istanbul, Iraq was accepted as a new member. It was also decided to establish the four working groups on safety, security, environment and ATM fields as well as to nominate the representatives of the member states for each group.

3.7 Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) Cooperation Initiatives (Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Turkey)

3.7.1 Civil Aviation Authorities of Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Turkey, all of which are non-EU members among ECAC member States, held a meeting in Yalta, Ukraine from 8 to 9 August 2008 to determine the way ahead upon the termination of JAA (Joint Aviation Authorities).

3.7.2 The Regional Safety Council was established and it has been decided to continue efforts within the framework of the arrangements agreed among the parties during the last meeting held on 18-19 December 2009.

3.7.3 Among the objectives of RSOO covering Black Sea and Caspian Sea region, the priority is to assist the States in fulfilling their responsibilities resulting from the Chicago Convention, its Annexes and other related documents.

3.7.4 Furthermore, the other objectives included the establishment of legislation fulfilling the requirements of the region and aviation industry, creating a regional training plan, merging efforts for formation of a safe, efficient and economic transportation system and overcoming the shortcomings related to responsibilities on national and regional levels.

3.7.5 Training of highly qualified technical personnel, the establishment of international expert teams through pooling to be established with qualified personnel, cooperation on audits of ICAO USOAP and EUROCONTROL ESIMS, and training the experts in this specific field as well as cooperating in realization of the inspections are among other RSOO activities worth mentioning.

4. **CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 Initiatives are primarily focused on achieving the harmonization of implementation of ICAO SARPs in the region.

4.2 The basic aim of these initiatives is to promote cooperation through the expanded use of best practices and the better utilization of existing capabilities within the region by taking into account different levels of competences that exist in States in line with ICAO policy on regional cooperation.

4.3 Turkey's primary goal is to develop regional cooperation activities, in order to improve current aviation standards and to establish a common aviation system without jeopardizing aviation safety and security as well as environmental concerns. In this regard, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Turkey duly supports the establishment of a common approach in the region regarding the implementation of ICAO SARPs.

4.4 The Assembly is therefore invited to take action as described in the Executive Summary.

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