



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 17: Environmental Protection

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CAEP AND THE ICAO REGIONAL OFFICES

(Presented by Argentina)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Protecting the environment by ensuring the sustainable development of civil aviation is now one of the strategic objectives of ICAO. In this respect, the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) plays a major role with ever increasing participation and technical excellence.

To further multiply the benefits of CAEP outcomes, it is essential to boost the participation of observer and non-Member States on the Committee, though indirectly, so as not to hamper the dynamics and effectiveness of its work, and in keeping with the directives to this effect from the International Civil Aviation Organization itself.

The Regional Offices of ICAO are the prime means to this end. At workshops, conferences, seminars and similar activities to facilitate exchange of views, States in a region that do not contribute directly to the Committee may nonetheless express their opinions and offer comments and suggestions on the CAEP agenda. Such input can provide added value to experts in the region who serve on the CAEP working groups.

This working paper seeks to increase the participation of States through regional activities.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) continue supporting the excellent work of CAEP and the ICAO Secretariat on matters relating to civil aviation and the environment; and
- b) recommend that the Council encourage the Regional Offices to promote initiatives of various kinds (such as seminars, workshops and other similar events) so that States that are not CAEP members or observers can benefit more fully from the Committee's work through broader and more direct access to it.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective C – <i>Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport.</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No additional funds required.
<i>References:</i>	Information Paper: <i>New Environmental Protection Policy of the National Civil Aviation Administration of Argentina.</i>

¹ The Spanish translation of this paper was provided by Argentina.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) was created by the Council of ICAO in 1983 as a result of work by the Committee on Aircraft Noise (CAN) and the Committee on Aircraft Engine Emissions (CAEE).

1.2 The Committee is composed of members, who have the right to take the floor and to vote, and observers, who may express their views and serve on working groups but who do not have the right to vote. The members are experts nominated by 23 States belonging to the Organization and approved by the Council, while observers are experts nominated by the Aviation Administrations of non-member States and other associations and organizations.

1.3 CAEP currently has nine (9) representatives from European States, five (5) from Asian States, four (4) from African States, two (2) from North American States, two (2) from South American States and one (1) from Australia. Observers on the Committee include representatives from Europe, one representative from New Zealand, one from the European Community and representatives from organizations such as ACAC, ACI, CANSO, IATA, IBAC and ICCAIA.

1.4 CAEP conducts its activities through working groups, each one of which researches and develops proposals in different fields of civil aviation and environmental protection. Each working group is divided into task groups (TGs) that examine specific issues in their area of study. The Committee also has support groups to assist the working groups.

1.5 The working groups and task groups of the Committee are made up of technical experts from the teams of members and observers. Given the great value of the contributions of such experts, their participation should be encouraged and could take the form of serving in the capacity of ad hoc advisers to any Member State.

1.6 Resolution A27-17 - Relationship between ICAO and regional civil aviation bodies says that ICAO should support the work and activities of present and future regional civil aviation bodies and directs the Council to conclude appropriate working arrangements with each regional civil aviation body.

1.7 ICAO has subsequently reached a number of cooperation arrangements with regional civil aviation bodies, implementing its regional cooperation policy in close coordination with regional civil aviation bodies and organizations.

1.8 In Resolution A37-21 – Cooperation with regional organizations and regional civil aviation bodies, the Assembly expressed its support for regional cooperation and encouraged regional civil aviation bodies and organizations to conclude appropriate arrangements with ICAO, urging States to assist their regional civil aviation bodies and organizations in this endeavour.

1.9 Although that Resolution is intended to strengthen safety oversight systems, the regional work referred to has often produced significant improvements in the harmonization of standards (as is the case in the SAM Region) as well as improved safety and air navigation.

1.10 It is therefore clear that a regional approach can also benefit environmental protection, and better serve this very important aim of the Organization.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Environmental protection is one of the fundamental strategic objectives of ICAO, and CAEP has become a valuable technical and professional tool to achieve it.

2.2 The Council instructions to CAEP highlight the need for the Committee to have adequate representation by the different regions of the world in all of its activities but with the necessary limits on membership for the Committee to be able to function efficiently.

2.3 The presence of observers allows non-member States, intergovernmental organizations, companies, service providers and other entities to take part in the work of the Committee and give their technical opinions at meetings. Such input is highly desirable in that it conveys the views of civil aviation stakeholders on the proposals and informs the work of expert task groups.

2.4 As stated in the introduction to this paper, ICAO promotes and fosters the creation and consolidation of regional organizations as a very effective means of helping States comply with Standards and Recommended Practices.

2.5 With the creation of discussion fora, participation by a region in Committee work can be enhanced because the different circumstances and interests of States participating in the fora are acknowledged and taken into account by the Committee.

2.6 The Latin American Region has two members on CAEP, both from South America (Argentina and Brazil). No State of Central America is a member of the Committee, and no Latin American States have observer status. Thus, only about 9% of States in the Region are represented on the Committee.

2.7 It seems fair to conclude, therefore, that greater familiarity with CAEP activities on the part of States that are not members or observers, resulting from stepped up information activities, would benefit such States and the region to which they belong.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 ICAO recognizes the importance of achieving a modern aviation sector that is founded on the principle of sustainability and environmental protection, among others. It goes without saying that projects for sustainable alternative fuel use, eco-friendly airports and quieter aircraft with low-emission engines are of key importance. These goals can only be attained by ensuring the direct or indirect participation in CAEP of as many States as possible, without lessening its dynamic effectiveness.

3.2 To optimize the work of CAEP, it is essential to foster participatory planning so that future actions of the Committee will be based a broader scope of opinions, interests and proposals. This would also improve the prospects for greater policy acceptance, applicability and compliance. All of these developments would no doubt make CAEP even more successful in its mission.

3.3 As a full member of CAEP, the Argentine Republic believes that the Regional Offices have an important role to play in ensuring the maximum success of CAEP through an arrangement for greater participation by experts from the various countries, through the permanent members, and for disseminating more widely information about the Committee's work and making States that are not CAEP members or observers more aware of its work by promoting initiatives of various kinds (such as seminars, workshops and other similar events).