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ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEM 24

(Presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee)

The attached report on Agenda Item 24 has been approved by the Executive Committee.

Note.— After removal of this covering sheet, this paper should be inserted in the appropriate place in the report folder.

(3 pages)

Agenda Item 24: Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ICAO

24.1 At its fifth meeting, the Executive Committee considered five working papers (A38-WP/6, 74, 227, 307, 362) under the agenda item “*Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ICAO*”.

24.2 A38-WP/6, which proposed an amendment to Rule 63 of the *Standing Rules of Procedure for the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization* (Doc 7600), pursuant to Decision A-22 and Resolution A31-16, in order to include the Chinese language in the languages of documentation, was presented. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Plenary the action proposed in A38-WP/6, which is to approve the amendment of Rule 63 of the Standing Rules of Procedure as set out in the Appendix of the working paper.

24.3 A38-WP/74, which contained the report of the Council outlining the continuing progress to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as requested by the 37th Session of the Assembly, was presented. This report also presented actions and identified measures for further improvement during the 2014-2016 triennium. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made by the Organization in improving its efficiency and effectiveness and expressed its support for the use of new technologies. Several Member States expressed concerns over the efficiency of the Organization in relation to the preparatory work for the Assembly, in particular the holding of three high-level conferences in relatively short succession prior to the 38th Session of the Assembly. A review of the methodology for drafting Assembly resolutions was also requested. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Assembly to request the Council to examine ways on improving the overall structure of the preparatory work leading up to the Assembly and to take provisions to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization.

24.4 WP/307, presented by the Russian Federation, reported that language services within ICAO were being reduced to the detriment of non-English speaking countries and requested that the Assembly be invited to take a number of steps aimed at reinforcing Assembly resolutions in force on this matter.

24.5 WP/362, presented by France and Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates, underlined the importance of multilingualism in ICAO and suggested practices to be adopted within ICAO in order to achieve and maintain multilingualism within the Organization, while searching for efficiency and expenditure control.

24.6 WP/227, presented by the 22 Member States¹ of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission, highlighted the need for documentation that supports safety and other important areas of work of the Organization to be available in all official languages. The paper proposed an amendment of resolutions A37-15 and A37-25 and invited the Assembly to support an appropriate endowment of language services for translation of documentation.

¹ Argentina, Aruba, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

24.7 Several Member States took the floor to support multilingualism as a fundamental principle to achieve the goals of ICAO. Some Member States stated that multilingualism should not be affected by budgetary constraints. Others invoked the need to find alternative funding to ensure the availability of documentation, mainly related to the implementation of safety and security matters. One Member State noted that one working paper was considered overly prescriptive and that some provisions therein would infringe on the policy-making and management responsibilities of the Council and the Secretary General. It was noted that one Member State had submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in language services with the Secretariat.

24.8 The Secretary General fully endorsed multilingualism as a principal objective of ICAO and reminded the Assembly that Standards and Recommended Practices were always approved in the six official languages. The Secretary General noted that, as reported to Council, some of the measures presented in the papers had already been put in place but that budgetary restrictions could not be ignored. ICAO could not dedicate more funds to language services, but Member States were encouraged to support these activities through voluntary contributions. He highlighted that language services were an integral part of the programme activities in the budget proposal for the coming triennium 2014-2015-2016.

24.9 The Committee agreed to request the Assembly to instruct the Council to closely monitor the implementation of the policies and decisions it had adopted to enhance efficiency and effectiveness on language service matters.

24.10 Having considered A38-WP/6, 74, 227, 307 and 362, the Committee recommends that the Assembly:

- 1) Approves the amendment of Rule 63 of the *Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly* (Doc 7600) as proposed in A38-WP/6;
- 2) Recognizes with appreciation the progress that has been made and results achieved in the implementation of Assembly Resolution A31-2 and A32-1 and the decision of the 37th Session of the Assembly on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ICAO;
- 3) Requests the Council to examine ways on improving the overall structure of the preparatory work leading up to the Assembly and to continue, as part of the ongoing process, to work on the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of ICAO; and
- 4) Recognizing multilingualism as fundamental principle to achieve the goals of ICAO, requests the Council to closely monitor the implementation of the policies and decisions it had adopted to enhance efficiency and effectiveness on language service matters.