

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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ASSEMBLY — 32ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 19: Implementation of the ICAO communications, navigation, and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems

SUPPORT OF THE ICAO POLICY ON RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM MATTERS

SUMMARY

This paper presents a proposal for promoting enhanced support to ICAO positions developed for ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs).

Action by the Assembly is proposed in paragraph 4.

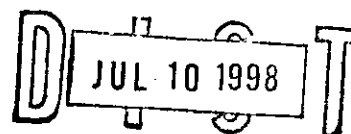
REFERENCES

Doc 9662, *Assembly Resolutions in Force* (as of 4 October 1995)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ICAO policies and practices related to the communications, navigation, and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems are contained in Resolution A31-6 "Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and practices related to communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems". The present paper addresses a specific policy issue related to radio frequency (RF) spectrum requirements for the CNS/ATM systems.

1.2 Availability of the necessary radio frequency spectrum is a prerequisite for the safety of civil aviation and the effective implementation of the CNS/ATM systems. However, as demand for spectrum from non-aviation users is constantly growing, aviation faces increasing competition for the limited available spectrum, in particular from commercial telecommunications services. It is therefore essential that aviation's requirements for radio frequency spectrum be strongly supported by all ICAO Contracting States in all international fora where spectrum allocations are addressed, so as to ensure that aviation requirements for safety of life services are duly presented and understood.



1.3 This paper proposes a draft Assembly resolution urging ICAO Contracting States to improve their support to aviation requirements for spectrum and instructing ICAO to make sufficient resources available to enable increased participation in spectrum management activities at all levels required.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) AND THE WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

2.1 The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the specialized agency of the United Nations for telecommunications matters. International agreements on the allocation and use of the radio frequency spectrum are made within the framework of ITU at biennial World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and are incorporated in the ITU Radio Regulations, which specify the allocation of radio frequency spectrum to user services.

2.2 ICAO is recognized by States as the international body with the competence to co-ordinate the aeronautical input to ITU meetings on radio frequency spectrum matters. The ICAO position at WRCs, where ICAO is accorded observer status, reflects the co-ordinated requirements of the international civil aviation community and is approved by the ICAO Council.

3. REQUIRED SUPPORT TO THE ICAO POSITION AT WRCs

3.1 For the ICAO position to be duly considered by WRCs when deliberating on matters of interest to the aviation community, an increased level of support by ITU member administrations is essential. The current level of support has proven insufficient to guarantee that aviation requirements are consistently met.

3.2 This is mainly due to the growing competition from non-aviation users, supported by commercial telecommunications interests. Within many ITU member States, the telecommunications authorities largely control the process leading to development of proposals for presentation to the ITU WRCs, and aviation authorities' inputs to the process seem to fail to influence adequately the national position. Additionally, the dominant role gained by regional organizations in ITU activities, and the introduction of the biennial WRC regime, have substantially increased the resource requirements to support the associated intensive schedule of WRC preparation meetings at various levels.

3.3 An inadequate level of support of the aviation position at WRCs may lead to WRC decisions which do not address adequately the aeronautical RF spectrum bandwidth requirements. In the long run, aeronautical services may be jeopardized, with potentially serious consequences.

3.4 Such consequences could include harmful interference from non-aeronautical services to existing aeronautical services, requiring expensive re-equipping of aircraft to preserve the current level of safety; failure of certain systems to satisfy operational requirements (such as in the case of GNSS/GPS interference); and inability to satisfy the growing need for aeronautical spectrum to support new CNS/ATM systems and enhance safety and regularity of flight.

3.5 In order to improve the current situation, it is recommended that Contracting States should commit to support the ICAO position at WRCs and in regional and international activities conducted in preparation to WRCs. To do so, they should include in their proposals to the WRC, to the maximum extent possible, material consistent with the ICAO position and they should undertake to provide for aviation interests to be fully integrated into States' positions for WRCs.

3.6 Recommendations to that effect were made by the Special Communications/Operations Divisional Meeting (1995) (SP COM/OPS/95, Recommendations 7/3 and 7/5 refer). Those recommendations specifically addressed support to WRC-95 activities. However, the recommendations are equally applicable to all future WRCs and, therefore, should be incorporated in a general statement on support to ICAO policy on spectrum matters. The proposed draft resolution reflects the recommendations and extends them to all future WRCs and related activities.

4. ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

4.1 The Assembly is invited to adopt the draft resolution in the appendix to this paper.

APPENDIX

DRAFT RESOLUTION A32-X

Whereas ICAO is the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for the safety, regularity and efficiency of international civil aviation;

Whereas ICAO adopts International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for aeronautical communications systems and radio navigation aids;

Whereas ITU is the specialized agency of the United Nations regulating the use of the radio frequency spectrum;

Whereas the ICAO position, as approved by the Council, for ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) is the result of the co-ordination of international aviation requirements for radio frequency spectrum;

Recognizing that the development and the implementation of the CNS/ATM systems and the safety of international civil aviation could be seriously jeopardized unless aviation requirements for allocations of radio frequency spectrum are satisfied and protection of those allocations is achieved;

Recognizing that support from ITU member administrations is required to ensure that the ICAO position is supported by the WRC and that aviation requirements are met;

Considering the urgent need to increase such support due to the growing demand for spectrum and aggressive competition from commercial telecommunications services;

Considering the increased level of ITU WRC preparation activities associated with the biennial WRC regime;

Considering Recommendations 7/3, 7/5 and 7/6 of the Special Communications/Operations Divisional Meeting (1995) (SP COM/OPS/95).

The Assembly:

1. *Urges* Contracting States to support firmly the ICAO position at WRCs and in regional and other international activities conducted in preparation to WRCs by the following means:

- a) undertaking to provide for aviation interests to be fully integrated in their positions presented to regional telecommunications fora involved in the preparation of joint proposals to the WRC;
- b) including in their proposals to the WRC, to the extent possible, material consistent with the ICAO position;

- c) undertaking to provide aviation authorities to fully participate in the development of States' positions; and
- d) ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, that their delegations to WRCs include representatives of their civil aviation administrations or other officials who are fully prepared to represent aviation interests;

2. *Requests* the Secretary General to bring to the attention of ITU the importance of adequate radio frequency spectrum allocation and protection for the safety of aviation;

3. *Instructs* the Council and the Secretary General, as a matter of high priority within the budget adopted by the Assembly, to ensure that the resources necessary to support increased participation by ICAO to international and regional spectrum management activities are made available.

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