

A35-6: Transition to a comprehensive systems approach for audits in the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP)

Whereas the primary objective of the Organization continues to be that of ensuring the safety of international civil aviation worldwide;

Whereas promoting the implementation of international standards contributes to this objective;

Whereas Article 37 of the Convention requires each Contracting State to collaborate in securing the highest practicable degree of uniformity in regulations and practices in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve air navigation;

Recalling that the 32nd ordinary session of the Assembly resolved that a universal safety oversight audit programme be established, comprising regular, mandatory, systematic and harmonized safety oversight audits to be carried out by ICAO;

Whereas the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) has been successful in meeting the mandate given by Resolution A32-11;

Recalling the objectives of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme, which seeks to ensure that Contracting States are adequately discharging their responsibility for safety oversight;

Recalling that ultimate responsibility for safety oversight rests with Contracting States, who shall continuously review their respective safety oversight capabilities;

Recalling that Assembly Resolution 32-11 requested the Council to present proposals for the funding of the programme on a long-term basis;

Recalling that Assembly Resolution 33-8 instructed the Secretary General to undertake a study regarding the expansion of the Programme to other safety-related fields;

Recalling that Assembly Resolution 33-8 requested the Council to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the USOAP, phasing in all of its activities into the Regular Programme budget, in due course;

Recognizing that the implementation of the USOAP has been instrumental in the identification of safety concerns and in providing recommendations for their resolution;

Recognizing that the effective implementation of State action plans is essential to enhance the overall safety of global air navigation;

Recognizing that the continuation and expansion of the USOAP to cover all safety-related Annex provisions is essential to promote the adequate implementation of safety-related Standards and Recommended Practices;

Recognizing that the Secretary General has taken appropriate steps to ensure the establishment of an independent quality assurance mechanism to monitor and assess Programme quality.

The Assembly:

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary General on the successful implementation of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme;

2. *Resolves* that the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme be further expanded to include the safety-related provisions contained in all safety-related Annexes to *the Convention on International Civil Aviation* as of 2005;

3. *Requests* the Secretary General, from 1 January 2005, to restructure the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme to adopt a comprehensive systems approach in conducting safety oversight audits in all Contracting States;

4. *Directs* the Secretary General to ensure that the comprehensive systems approach maintains as core elements the safety provisions contained in Annex 1 — *Personnel Licensing*, Annex 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*, Annex 8 — *Airworthiness of Aircraft*, Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*, Annex 13 — *Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation* and Annex 14 — *Aerodromes*; to minimize the time intervals between audits, resources permitting; to make all aspects of the auditing process visible to Contracting States; and to validate the accuracy of statements made by Contracting States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary General to restructure the safety oversight audit reports to reflect the critical elements of a safety oversight system, as presented in ICAO Doc 9734 — *Safety Oversight Manual, Part A - The Establishment and Management of a State's Safety Oversight System*;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to adopt a more flexible approach in the implementation of the Programme on a long-term basis;

7. *Directs* the Secretary General to make the final safety oversight audit reports available to all Contracting States and also to provide access to all relevant information derived from the Audit Findings and Differences Database (AFDD) through the secure website of ICAO;

Note.— The audit final report contains the audit findings, recommendations, State's action plan and comments, as well as the comments of the Safety Oversight Audit Section on the State's action plan.

8. *Requests* the Secretary General to continuously ensure the maintenance of the quality assurance mechanism established to monitor and assess Programme quality, and transparency of all aspects of the audit process;

9. *Calls* on all Contracting States able to do so to second qualified and experienced technical staff to ICAO on a long- or short-term basis, with a view to enabling the Organization to continue to successfully implement the Programme;

10. *Urges* all Contracting States to submit to ICAO, in a timely manner, and keep up-to-date, all the information and documentation associated with the preparation and conduct of an audit, to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Programme;

11. *Urges* all Contracting States to cooperate with ICAO and as much as practicable to accept audit missions as scheduled by the Organization in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Programme;

12. *Urges* all Contracting States to accept the primacy of USOAP audit results as meeting the established international Standards, Recommended Practices and Procedures, when considering the need for additional or supplementary safety oversight audits by States;

13. *Declares* that Resolution A33-8: *Continuation and expansion of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme* has been superseded by this Resolution;

14. *Requests* the Council to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly on the overall implementation of the Programme.