



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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EX/24

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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 22: Other high-level policy issues to be considered by the Executive Committee

UNANNOUNCED MISSILE LAUNCHES BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Presented by the Council of ICAO)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents an update on Assembly Resolution A41-3, *Unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea* adopted by the 41st Session of the Assembly in connection with the recurring unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Assembly Resolution A41-3 endorsed the decision of the ICAO Council that, aside from the incompatibility of ballistic missile launches with the applicable United Nations Security Council Resolutions, unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute an infraction to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944 – the “Chicago Convention”). The Resolution urgently called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply strictly with the provisions of the Chicago Convention, its Annexes and its related Procedures for Air Navigation Services, in order to cease the recurrence of such potentially hazardous activities. The Resolution further requested the Council to remain seized of the matter and to report back to the Assembly as appropriate. Following a review of the matter at the Seventh Meeting of its 235th Session held on 13 June 2025, the Council decided that it was appropriate to report back to the 42nd Session of the Assembly given that unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have continued to occur since 2022, with several launches being recorded in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Action: The Assembly is invited to take note of the developments with respect to Assembly Resolution A41-3 and, as such, to restate that Assembly Resolution A41-3 remains in force as attached to this Working Paper, and to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take appropriate actions to remedy the situation.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goals: <i>Every Flight is Safe and Secure, Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All, The International Civil Aviation Convention and other Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges, and The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All.</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	This working paper has no direct financial implications

<i>References:</i>	C-DEC 235/7 A41-3, <i>Unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea</i> A41-WP/78, <i>Unannounced Missile Launches</i> Doc 7559, <i>Rules of Procedure for the Council</i> Doc 7300, <i>Convention on International Civil Aviation</i>
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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The 41st Session of the Assembly (Montréal, 27 September – 7 October 2022) adopted Assembly Resolution A41-3, *Unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea* in connection with the recurring unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Assembly Resolution A41-3 endorsed the decision of the ICAO Council that, aside from the incompatibility of ballistic missile launches with the applicable United Nations Security Council Resolutions, unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute an infraction to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944 – the “Chicago Convention”).

1.2 Assembly Resolution A41-3 urgently called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply strictly with the provisions of the Chicago Convention, its Annexes and its related Procedures for Air Navigation Services, in order to cease the recurrence of such potentially hazardous activities. The Resolution further requested the Council to remain seized of this matter and report back to the Assembly as appropriate

2. DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 At the Seventh Meeting of its 235th Session held on 13 June 2025, the Council, following consideration of an Oral Report from the Secretary General (Revision No. 1, 6 June 2025), noted that unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had continued to occur since 2022, with several launches being recorded in 2023, 2024 and 2025. The Council condemned the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the recurring incidents of unannounced missile launches notwithstanding its decision taken at the Fourth Meeting of its 229th Session (19 June 2023), and the numerous letters sent by the President of the Council informing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea about the decisions of the Council and the Assembly and reminding them of their obligations under the Chicago Convention and its Annexes.

2.2 Accordingly, the Council decided that it was appropriate to report back to the Assembly during its 42nd Session on the status of compliance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with Assembly Resolution A41-3.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 The Council invites the Assembly to take note of the developments with respect to Assembly Resolution A41-3 as set out in paragraph 2 of this Working Paper and, as such, to restate that Assembly Resolution A41-3 remains in force as attached in the **Appendix** to this Working Paper, and to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take appropriate actions to remedy the situation.

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APPENDIX

Resolution A41-3: Unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Having considered the item concerning recurring unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Recalling Assembly Resolution A32-6 concerning safety of navigation;

Recalling that the United Nations Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology and has strongly condemned the Democratic People's Republic of Korea when doing so in violation and flagrant disregard of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006), 2087 (2013), 2270 (2016), 2321 (2016) and 2371 (2017), *inter alia*;

Bearing in mind the provisions and principles of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, while the primary objective of ICAO continues to be that of ensuring the safety of international civil aviation worldwide;

Considering the paramount importance of proper coordination of activities potentially hazardous to civil aircraft with all parties concerned (Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*), due promulgation of information when the establishment of prohibited, restricted or danger areas is unavoidable (Annex 15 — *Aeronautical Information Services*), and effective implementation of relevant *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aeronautical Information Management* (Doc 10066);

Noting that the ICAO Council, on 6 October 2017, expressed its strong condemnation of the continued launching of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over or near international routes without advance notification, which seriously threatens the safety of international civil aviation;

Considering that the ICAO Council remained seized of the matter, expressing concern at episodes involving unannounced missiles being launched by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which represent a serious risk to international civil aviation and which occurred in defiance of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and affirmed that the ICAO Secretariat should avoid all technical activities with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, of a direct or indirect nature;

Noting that the ICAO Council, on 1 June 2022, condemned in the strongest possible terms the recent spate of unannounced missile launches and urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to act in accordance with and respect for the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, and to comply with applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices;

Considering that the ICAO Council further decided to submit this matter to the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly, in accordance with Article 54 k) of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*;

The Assembly:

1. *Endorses* the decision of the ICAO Council that, aside from the incompatibility of ballistic missile launches with the applicable United Nations Security Council Resolutions, unannounced missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute an infraction to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, conforming to its Article 54 k);
2. *Deeply deplores* that, in disregard of the concerns and condemnations expressed by the ICAO Council, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has continued the unannounced launches of missiles;
3. *Strongly condemns* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for launching missiles without advance notification, violating the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and seriously threatening the safety of international civil aviation;
4. *Urgently calls upon* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply strictly with the provisions of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, its Annexes and its related Procedures for Air Navigation Services, in order to cease the recurrence of such potentially hazardous activities;
5. *Reaffirms* the intention of ICAO to continue and maintain a close and cooperative relationship with the United Nations on this matter, fulfilling the objectives set forth in the Agreement between the United Nations and ICAO (see Assembly Resolution A1-2);
6. *Requests* the Council to remain seized of this matter and report back to the Assembly as appropriate; and
7. *Instructs* the Secretary General to immediately draw the attention of all Contracting States to this resolution.

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