



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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EX/39

25/7/25

ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

DOUBLE STANDARD WITHIN ICAO COUNCIL

(Presented by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper exposes the double standard within the ICAO Council in detail and requests to take preventive measures.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) consider this working paper;
- b) take full investigation on the Council meetings related to the DPRK from 2022 to 2025 including 13th meeting of 234th Session; and
- c) take measures to prevent the double standard within the ICAO Council

Strategic Goals:

This working paper relates to Strategic Goal: *Every Flight is Safe and Secure*

Financial implications:

This working paper has no direct financial implications

References:

C-WP/15688
C-DEC 234/13
Doc 7300, *Convention on International Civil Aviation*
Doc 10184, *Assembly Resolutions in Force*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Considering that the Republic of Korea's (ROK) military drone infiltration into the DPRK's sovereign airspace, even into the central area of Pyongyang City, at night-time in October 2024 and dropping leaflets near the approach route over the Pyongyang International Airport are infractions of Articles 1, 3 and 8 of the Convention and relevant provisions of its Annex 2, the DPRK strongly requested the Council to report the matter to the 42nd Assembly and reconsider ROK's Council membership at the 234th Session of Council on 1st April 2025.

1.2 However, in the meeting, the DPRK's concern was dismissed under the allegation that military drones do not fall within the scope of the Convention, that there is no sufficient evidence that the drone in question undermined aviation safety, and that it is a political issue. On contrary, the decision to report so-called "GNSS RFI by the DPRK" alleged by the ROK to the ICAO 42nd Assembly was adopted.

2. REGULATION ANALYSIS

2.1 If the same logic is to be applied, it leads to a conclusion that missile test launches are military scope, there is no evidence of casualties, damages or threats to the civil aviation, and, most importantly, it is a political issue of self-defence measure responding to the anti-DPRK hostile manoeuvre of the United States, Japan, and the ROK.

2.2 As the DPRK's concern about the ROK's UA infiltration was dismissed in the Council, such prejudice and the double standard vividly damaged the leadership and the image of ICAO Council which decides the future of international civil aviation.

2.3 "GNSS RFI by the DPRK" alleged by the ROK is the plot and provocation based on the one sided and unscientific self-made rumour which the other party never recognized. It is the habitual far-fetched allegation of the ROK to smear the DPRK's external image on the international arena all the time, while it is reasonable to judge that the fundamental causes and responsibilities of "GNSS RFI" are attributable to the ceaseless joint war exercises by the United States and the ROK who aggravate the consistent tension on the Korean peninsula, recently by the NATO members who attend such military activities actively.

2.4 The Council is making Decisions to report the one-sided draft resolution to the ICAO 42nd Assembly based on only the ROK's allegation which the other party never recognized and has not yet been proven scientifically in a mutual manner. If double standards based on such political prejudice are tolerated, it may set a precedent for issues similar to that on the Korean peninsula to be replicated in other regions and countries and infringe on their interests.