



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Agenda Item 26: Economic Development of Air Transport

A CROSS-CUTTING IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA FOR THE STRATEGIC GOAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT

(Presented by Brazil)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 235th Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council deliberated on the work undertaken by the Council's Small Group on ICAO's Leadership in Economic Development of Air Transport (SGED). One of the SGED's recommendations which was approved by the Council is related to *"Integrating economic development of air transport across all aviation aspects – Economic development concerns and factors, should be duly considered in ICAO activities and programmes. The SGED emphasizes the necessity for enhanced coordination on cross-cutting issues related to economic development, highlighting the importance of a holistic approach to understand the reciprocal impacts of various actions on economic development of air transport"*. In order to implement that recommendation, it is of paramount importance that a coherent and consistent agenda is structured and implemented across all workstreams.

Brazil proposes the Assembly to request the Council and the Secretariat to ensure that the Strategic Goal on Economic Development of Air Transport be pursued across all the items of the Organization's agenda. To this effect, the Council and the Secretariat should be requested to take into account Economic Development concerns and factors in the consideration of ICAO's activities and programmes, covering such areas as standard-setting, development and implementation of work programmes, policies and frameworks, as well other initiatives, including the definition of the specific agendas and speakers of events. ICAO's actions should prioritize immediate issues by developing focused and deliverables and actions for the next triennium, to be discussed at the upcoming 42nd Session of the Assembly. Additionally, long-term actions should be addressed through the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7) scheduled for 2026.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- (a) request the Council and the Secretariat to implement a cross-cutting agenda of implementation of the Strategic Goal of Economic Development of Air Transport, taking into account the elements presented in this working paper; and
- (b) consider the elements presented herein in the elaboration of the final version of the "Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the air transport field" by the 42nd Assembly.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Goal – <i>The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All.</i>
<i>Financial implications:</i>	
<i>References:</i>	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Long Term Strategic Plan for 2026-2050 identified, among others, the following key area requiring attention: fostering the development of a sound and economically viable civil aviation system, on the basis of equal opportunity and meeting the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient, environmentally sustainable and economical air transport. In addition, the Strategic Plan established the following Strategic Objective: The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All: Foster the development of a sound and economically viable and affordable civil aviation system, that will facilitate the achievement of measurable prosperity and well-being for everyone through aviation, with ICAO supporting every Member State using a balanced approach across all strategic areas.

1.2 The 235th session of the ICAO Council deliberated on the work undertaken by the Small Group on ICAO's Leadership in Economic Development of Air Transport (SGED). One of the recommendations which was approved¹ by the Council is related to *"Integrating economic development of air transport across all aviation aspects – Economic development concerns and factors, should be duly considered in ICAO activities and programmes. The SGED emphasizes the necessity for enhanced coordination on cross-cutting issues related to economic development, highlighting the importance of a holistic approach to understand the reciprocal impacts of various actions on economic development of air transport"*.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 It is critical to give full implementation, in all areas of ICAO's work, of the Convention on International Civil Aviation's (Chicago Convention) principles and provisions on economic development, such as that international air transport services must be established on the basis of equal opportunity, and needs to be operated in a safe, regular, efficient and economical manner.

2.2 ICAO's actions should prioritize immediate issues by developing focused deliverables and actions for the next triennium, to be discussed at the upcoming 42nd Session of the Assembly. Additionally, longer-term actions should be addressed through the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7) scheduled for 2026.

2.3 To take into account economic development concerns and factors through pragmatic and actionable solutions, a possible agenda of work could encompass, inter alia:

- a) to embed the principle of "No Country Left Behind" across the board in ICAO's initiatives;
- b) to identify implementation support, including financing, needed to initiatives related to developing countries and States with particular needs;
- c) to improve accessibility to funding for aviation infrastructure and States' oversight functions, as well as promote solutions to overcome infrastructure and airspace capacity constraints;
- d) to give due consideration to the expectation, demands and needs of the recipients of cooperation given by or through ICAO;
- e) to include economic impact assessment of initiatives, including in standard-setting, and the economic viability of their implementation, taking into account Member States capabilities;

¹ See C-DEC 235/8. The list of relevant recommendations are listed in the Appendix of document C-WP/15723 and were included in the Assembly working paper "Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the air transport field".

- f) to consider economic, social and environmental factors in a balanced way when tackling environmental matters;
- g) to consider the economic regulation dimension of issues;
- h) to provide guidance for States on new regulatory arrangements to ensure progressive change towards market access, effective and sustained participation and fair competition in international air transport;
- i) to consider the impact of ICAO activities and initiatives in terms of discrimination, competition and fairness;
- j) in events promoted by ICAO, to include the treatment of economic development aspects in the definition of the agenda and panellists;
- k) to increase the use of aviation as a development tool;
- l) to encourage the furtherance of economic development goals and objectives through ICAO regional offices, promoting practical solutions and strategies;
- m) to leverage data for data-driven decision-making; and
- n) to promote the elaboration of studies and researches on economic development aspects as inputs for Member States and support decision-making processes within ICAO.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 In order to implement SGED's recommendation and to foster the development of a sound and economically-viable civil aviation system within the scope of ICAO's work, it is of paramount importance that a coherent and consistent agenda is structured and implemented across all workstreams.

3.2 Brazil proposes that the Assembly request the Council and the Secretariat to ensure that the Strategic Objective on Economic Development be pursued across all the items of the Organization's agenda. To this effect, the Council and the Secretariat should be requested to take into account Economic Development concerns and factors in the consideration of ICAO's activities and programmes, covering such areas as standard-setting, development and implementation of work programmes, policies and frameworks, as well other initiatives, including the definition of the specific agendas and speakers of events.

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