



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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

President of the Assembly
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the Council
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General
Your Excellencies Ministers of Transport and Civil Aviation
Heads of Delegation
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, I would like to convey to you the profound greetings of the National Aviation Administration.

We are holding this Assembly in a complex international environment, because in addition to the political, economic and social problems faced by International Civil Aviation, the effects of the confrontation between Member States are added.

They are politicization and double standard emerging within ICAO.

As the ICAO is the UN organization specialized in civil aviation with 193 Member States, ICAO’s technical activities should focus on the civil aviation and should not be affected from the political or military problems between the Member States.

Some ICAO Council member states (hereinafter referred to as the “Sponsors”) hostile to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as “the DPRK”) took issue with the “unannounced missile launches of the DPRK” and proposed to avoid technical activities with the DPRK.

Accordingly, the Council of the ICAO (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) adopted the decision C-DEC 223/4 (hereinafter referred to as “the Council Decision”) on avoidance of technical activities with the DPRK at the 4th Meeting of its 223rd Session on 9 June 2021.

The Council failed to take due note of the fact that the Sponsors’ assertion from political objectives may go beyond technical concerns and lead to political misunderstanding within the ICAO.

The DPRK, on several occasions, proposed to resolve, by means of dialogue and negotiation, the issue in question which is not covered by the Convention and its Annexes, given the unique context on the Korean

peninsula which is technically at war. However, the Council only repeated the assertions of the Sponsors.

The Council argues that the avoidance of technical activities with the DPRK is the resolution of the Assembly. However, the Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau of ICAO who had been requested in several times to give answers to the DPRK questioning the legality of C-DEC 223/4 which is the basis of the Assembly Resolution A41-3 is not still answering.

The Sponsors and member states which voted in favour should legally verify, within the contexts and framework of the Convention and relevant regulations, whether their decision to avoid technical activities with one of member states is in compliance with the Convention.

The Council, on grounds of the Council decision and Assembly Resolution on avoidance of technical activities with the DPRK, intentionally excluded the DPRK, an ICAO member state from projects including COSCAP-NA, CAPSCA and CRV, in which the latter has long been participating or plans to participate upon the recommendation of the Organization. This is a contradictory behaviour which breaks the aviation safety chain entrusted to a member state for the implementation of the GANP and GASP.

After ICAO proposed USAP-CMA to the DPRK recently, however, ICAO had no choice but to recognize the inconsistency between the Audit and the Decision/Resolution which was highlighted by DPRK during the communication with ICAO and hence the ICAO had withdrawn this audit by themselves. This is an inevitable consequence originated by the Decision. The Council should review their mistake and what made them committing such mistake.

The Sponsors have formed a front within the Council and ICAO against other member states under the pretext of implementing the Convention and ensuring aviation safety. There are voices within the Council and Organization that this may go beyond technical concerns and create political misinterpretation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While dealing with the DPRK-related issues, the Sponsors also handled the issues without unique standard.

The ROK committed the infiltration of the military drone into the DPRK's sovereign airspace at night time in October 2024 and dropped leaflets near the approach route over the Pyongyang International Airport. The DPRK brought up the matter for discussion at the 234th Session of Council in 1st April 2025, and proved the ROK's infraction of the Convention from the viewpoint of aviation safety. The DPRK strongly requested the Council to report the matter to the 42nd Assembly and reconsider ROK's Council membership.

However, the Sponsors insisted that drones for military purposes 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.

They are the Council Member States who, in the past, sponsored or voted in favour of avoiding technical activities with the DPRK, claiming that the DPRK's missile launch constitutes a violation of the Convention. Should the same logic is to be applied, missile test launches are military scope, there is no evidence of casualties, damages or threats, and it is a political issue. Such inconsistent acts of double standards are openly committed by several member states of the ICAO Council where the present and future of international civil aviation is decided. This is a typical example of politicizing technical activities and double standard within the Council.

Some Council member states tried to report the ROK-sponsored proposal of "GNSS RFI by the DPRK" only to the 42nd Assembly among many other GNSS RFI incidents occurring around the world. This is

only serve as another act of pushing ICAO towards politicization and double standard.

If the politicization of technical activities and double standard 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.

ICAO should prove to all member states the legality of its Council decision and Assembly Resolution on avoidance of technical activities with one of member states which is the first of its kind in the 80-year-long history of ICAO.

The Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its hope and confidence that the all Member States will stay alert to the politicization trend and double standard within the Council and extend impartial support to the DPRK's stand against the politicization and double standard.

Thank you.

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