



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

ILLEGITIMATE MILITARY AGGRESSION ENDANGERING INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION (JUNE 2025)

(Presented by Iran (Islamic Republic of))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper documents the unlawful military actions by the Zionist regime against Iranian civil aviation airspace, aircraft and infrastructure during June 2025, in violation of international aviation law and the Chicago Convention. It calls for ICAO investigation and remedial action. The Zionist regime should be accountable for its unlawful actions.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Support the adoption of a resolution (appendix 1) that ensures accountability and strengthens ICAO's mechanisms to prevent future violations containing;
- b) Condemning the aerial violations and unlawful interference with civil aviation;
- c) Invoke ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP-CMA) or/and other mechanism on Zionist regime to initiate an independent investigation into the violations of Chicago Convention and international law; and
- d) Reaffirm the inviolability of civil aviation infrastructure under international law and ICAO standards.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Goal - Every Flight is Safe and Secure.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Financial implications are for the investigation in the framework of USAP-CMA or other mechanism.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 7300/9, <i>Convention on International Civil Aviation</i> and its Annexes Letter No. 24120415195, 21 June 2025 to the ICAO Secretary General

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On June 2025, the Zionist regime conducted military operations in Iranian airspace, resulting in:

- a) Direct attacks on civilian airports and civil air navigation infrastructure (Azadi, Imam Khomeini, Mehrabad, Tabriz, Shiraz).
- b) Destruction of civilian aircraft, including training and ultra-light planes, Red Crescent Helicopter.
- c) Disruption of regional air traffic, endangering national/international passenger flights.

1.2 The Islamic Republic of Iran submits this urgent protest regarding the Zionist regime's unlawful military attack, which:

- a) Violated sovereign airspace (Chicago Convention, Article 1).
- b) Targeted civilian airports and infrastructure (ICAO Annex 17 and Geneva Convention).
- c) Endangered passenger aircraft and civilians (Article 3 and 3 *bis*).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Chicago Convention (1944) Violations

2.1.1 Article 1: Sovereignty

"The contracting States recognize that every State has *complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory."→ Israel's unauthorized entry into Iranian airspace violates this foundational principle.

2.1.2 Article 3 b) and Article 3 bis: a) Applicability to Military Flights and Hazard Avoidance; The contracting States recognize that every State must refrain from endangering human life and the safety of civil aircraft. "Aircraft shall not be operated in such proximity to other aircraft as to create a collision hazard." Also Drones/missiles endangered commercial flights. Tehran FIR airspace full of aircraft while aggression commenced and also airport strikes breach this obligation. The rules of the air shall apply to all military aircraft, subject to such exceptions as are prescribed by the national regulations of the State airspace." Zionist regime failed to coordinate flights or issue NOTAMs.

2.2 ICAO Assembly Resolution A38-15 and A17-1

2.2.1 Condemn all acts of violence which may be directed against aircraft, aircraft crews and passengers engaged in international air transport; and also condemns all acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation and urges all States to respect the sovereignty of other States over their airspace. This explicitly prohibits unilateral military incursions.

2.3 Geneva Conventions

"Attacks against civilian airports are prohibited unless they become military objectives." Strikes on Imam Khomeini, Azadi, and Shiraz airports violated this rule (no military use).

3. **DAMAGES AND SAFETY/SECURITY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 International Airports: Imam Khomeini, Mehrabad, Isfahan, Tabriz, Azadi, Shiraz.

3.1.1 Traffic, telecommunication and navigation equipment destroyed; Tehran Mehrabad airport PSR approach radar equipment destroyed, also Telecommunication and data links equipment destroyed.

3.1.2 Runway surfaces damaged; Tabriz and Isfahan international airports.

3.1.3 Hangars including aircraft destroyed; Three hangars in azadi airport.

3.2 Civil aircraft:

a) Red crescent (Red cross equivalent organization) EMS helicopter bombed in Zanjan airport.

b) 38 Private, leisure and training aircraft destroyed in three hangars in Azadi Airport (Karaj-Qazvin Road).

3.3 Defined international Airspace and corridors intrusion:

3.3.1 Aggression commenced without any notification resulting a populated FIR airspace affected by missiles, drones, and fighter jets seriously endangering international flight operations safety, endangering civil aircraft and passengers. The aircraft forced to clear sky or land by Notam issued by Iranian authorities for Tehran FIR (to notify situation), including grounded aircraft from other countries airlines like Pegasus, Emirates airlines, Tailwind, and Turkish airlines in Iranian airports.

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APPENDIX

DRAFT ICAO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TEXT

Title: Protection of Sovereign Airspace and the Safety of International Civil Aviation from Unauthorized Military Incursions

THE ASSEMBLY:

RECALLING the fundamental principles of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944 – the “Chicago Convention”), particularly:

- Article 1, which recognizes the complete and exclusive sovereignty of every State over the airspace above its territory;
- Article 3(c), which explicitly states that no state aircraft of a contracting State shall fly over the territory of another State without authorization;
- Article 44, which calls upon ICAO to ensure the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by any action that undermines the sovereignty of States and the safety of international civil aviation;

ALARMED by the danger posed to civil aircraft by unauthorized military incursions into sovereign airspace, which are conducted without coordination, without the issuance of appropriate risk advisories to civil aviation, and in a manner that creates a grave risk of misidentification or accidental engagement;

NOTING that such unauthorized incursions violate the bedrock principle of airspace sovereignty and demonstrate a reckless disregard for the safety of civil aviation;

- STRONGLY CONDEMNS any incursion by state aircraft into the sovereign airspace of another State without express authorization, which constitutes a clear violation of Articles 1 and 3(c) of the Chicago Convention;
- URGES all Contracting States to strictly respect the inviolability of sovereign airspace and to refrain from any actions that jeopardize the safety of civil aircraft and passengers;

REAFFIRMS that even in situations of conflict, all States have an obligation under international law to take all feasible precautions to protect civilian persons and objects, including civil aircraft and airport infrastructure;

CALLS UPON all States conducting military operations to deconflict their activities with civilian air traffic through all available means, including the issuance of appropriate risk advisories, to prevent endangering civil aircraft;

REQUESTS the Council to: a) Continue to monitor developments that threaten the safety of international civil aviation; b) Consider and investigation to the issue c) establishing a reporting mechanism for States to submit evidence of violations of Articles 1 and 3 of the Chicago Convention for the Council's review; d) Provide a report on this matter to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

INVITES the Secretary General to bring this resolution to the attention of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the Security Council, highlighting the threat such unauthorized military actions pose to international peace, security, and civil aviation safety.

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