



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY ISRAEL

(Presented by Israel)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Agenda Item 8 (Document A42-WP/531, P/15)

2. STATEMENT

2.1 Israel rejects in its entirety the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The statement repeatedly uses the expression “the Zionist regime”, which is a political term of incitement used by actors hostile to Israel that support terrorism and violence in our region, blatantly delegitimizing Israel as a legitimate sovereign State and inconsistent with ICAO’s professional mandate. Such language has no place in ICAO’s official documentation, and goes against the core duties of the UN, such as the longstanding requirements of neutrality and impartiality, as well as the basic principle of sovereign equality of all member States enshrined in the UN Charter, article 2.1.

2.2 The statement calls for condemnation of aerial violations and unlawful interference with civil aviation. This statement is omitting reference to Iran's attacks on Israel in April and October 2024, aimed at civil targets including Israel's international airport. This oversight is meant to avoid addressing Article 89 of the Chicago Convention, which clearly states that "In case of war, the provisions of this Convention shall not affect the freedom of action of any of the contracting States affected, whether as belligerents or as neutrals." Israel's actions against Iran were fully consistent with the Law of armed conflict and within its right of self-defense under article 51 of the UN Charter. In the context of this forum, Iran's direct acts of aggression created wartime circumstances in which affected States are entitled to exercise freedom of action under the **Chicago Convention, Article 89**, which specifically addresses “War and Emergency Conditions.”

2.3 Iran's use of civil aviation to transport weapons, military systems, and funds for terrorism poses a significant threat to global security. By doing so, Iran not only endangers the targets of its illicit activities but also jeopardizes the safety of civil aviation passengers and destination airports. These actions,

which violate the fundamental principles of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), warrant strong condemnation.

2.4 The statement calls to initiate an independent investigation into the violations of international aviation law. ICAO already issues neutral technical guidance on operations in conflict zones, and creating an additional “violations reporting” channel falls outside ICAO’s mandate.

2.5 The Assembly is not the appropriate forum for discussing allegations directed against a single State. Article 84 of the Chicago Convention clearly establishes the Council’s role in dispute settlement and in addressing allegations of breaches. Avoiding this process undermines the Convention itself, and is an act of procedural abuse. ICAO must not be used as a platform to politically target a single State.

2.6 This is not a statement about aviation safety. It is a political attack, disguised in the language of “promoting security”. All member states of ICAO are aware of Iran's long record of supporting terrorism, regional destabilization, active aggression, and advancing nuclear and ballistic programs which threaten regional and global stability. Iran is a clear example of a state which is consistently in non-compliance of its obligations under the international instrument to which it is a party. The Assembly should not be misled by this pretense and must reject the proposal in its entirety.

2.7 **Israel calls upon this Assembly to remove the statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran from the Assembly records and to reject the draft resolution proposed in A42-WP/533 (EX/243) in this matter.**

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