



C-DEC 223/8
5/7/21

COUNCIL — 223RD SESSION

EIGHTH MEETING

(VIRTUAL MEETING ON FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 2021, AT 1000 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

OPEN MEETING

Condolences

1. The Council expressed its sincere condolences to Government and peoples of Zambia following the recent passing away of the country's former President, His Excellency, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda.

Progress report on the work related to conflict zones and the “Safer Skies” initiative

2. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15196, which presented a progress report on the activities of the ICAO Secretariat in relation to the Safer Skies initiative. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Air Navigation Commission (ANC). The Council was joined in its deliberations by the Minister of Transport of Canada, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, as well as by the Deputy Minister of Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency, Dr. Moshen Baharvand.

3. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) welcomed the presence at this meeting of the Minister of Transport of Canada, the Hon. Mr. Omar Alghabra and the Deputy Minister of Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency, Dr. Moshen Baharvand;
- b) recalled the previous occasions on which the Council had considered this item and in which it had expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and in this connection, took note of the information presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its stated intention to provide an adequate level of financial compensation to the families of the victims for their loss;
- c) reiterated its support and appreciation for the Canada-led initiative, while recalling that this had been formulated to bring together stakeholders and partners to establish a common set of practices to better protect passengers from the risk of flying in or near conflict zones;
- d) took note of the progress achieved to date by the Secretariat in support of the Canada-led initiative, while requesting that future iterations of this report include additional information concerning the progress of the Safer Skies Forum and activities being undertaken by Member States as well as other aviation stakeholders in this area, elements of specific actions taken in response to accidents and incidents attributed to conflict zones, and on information sharing on risk management, particularly with respect to Annex 19 – Safety Management;

- e) further took note of the stated intention by the Delegation of Canada to present a working paper to the upcoming High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC), in which revisions would be proposed that aim to strengthen Annex 13 provisions related to the conduct of aircraft accident and incident investigations;
- f) welcomed the recent publication of the *Manual on Civil-Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management* (Doc 10088), as well as the progress that had been made in relation to the finalization of the *Manual Concerning Safety Measures Relating to Military Activities Potentially Hazardous to Civil Aircraft Operations* (Doc 9554), and underscored the important contribution that these publications would make in providing guidance to Member States in managing airspace in conflict zones; and
- g) took note of the Secretariat's intention to establish an Integrated Risk Management Study Group (IRMSG), and in this connection, requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper on the subject, including the draft Terms of Reference for the IRMSG, on the understanding that this paper would first be presented to the Air Navigation Commission for further consideration.

Proposal for amendment of the *Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region*, concerning the establishment of a Doha Flight Information Region (FIR)/Search and Rescue Region (SRR)

4. The Council commenced consideration of this item on the basis of C-WP/15198 which presented a proposal for amendment of the *Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region* (Doc 9708), concerning the establishment of a Doha flight information region (FIR) and search and rescue region (SRR). The Council also had for consideration C-WP/15225, presented by the State of Qatar, which outlined key aspects of the proposed amendment. The Minister of Transport of Qatar, His Excellency Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, and the Minister of Transport of Bahrain, His Excellency Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, joined the Council in its deliberations,.

5. Due to time constraints, the Council was unable to conclude its consideration on this item. Accordingly, it was agreed to resume consideration at the next meeting of the Council, which was scheduled for Monday, 21 June 2021. The Council also agreed to a proposal from the President of the Council that in the intervening period and in advance of the next meeting, he would circulate identified points of convergence that had emerged from the preceding discussion and which would provide context for the resumption of deliberations.

Farewell to Director

6. The Council bade farewell to Mr. Jiefang Huang, the Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau (D/LEB).