



C-DEC 234/6
24/03/25

COUNCIL — 234TH SESSION

SIXTH MEETING

(COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2025 AT 1430 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

CLOSED MEETING

Not available

OPEN MEETING

Draft Assembly Working Paper – Outcome of the High-level Ministerial Segment of the ICAO Security Week 2024 in Muscat, Oman

5. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15671 Revision No. 1, which presented a draft Assembly working paper on the outcome of the High-level Ministerial Segment convened on 11 December 2024, during ICAO Security Week 2024 hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Oman, in Muscat, from 9 to 12 December 2024. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Aviation Security Committee (ASC).
6. Following consideration, the Council:
 - a) approved the dissemination of the Muscat Declaration to Member States, and in that connection, supported the continued efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Declaration through outreach activities, including during global and regional events; and
 - b) approved the draft Assembly working paper contained in C-WP/15671 Revision No. 1, for submission to the 42nd Session of the Assembly.

Approval of the ICAO Policy on Innovation

7. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15667, which pursuant to the decision taken by the Council during its 231st Session (C-DEC 231/2, refers) presented the ICAO Policy on Innovation for approval by the Council. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Committee on Governance (COG).
8. Following consideration, the Council:
 - a) expressed its appreciation to the Small Group on Innovation for the valuable and comprehensive work undertaken to develop the Policy, and welcomed the collaborative approach and iterative methodology applied by the Small Group to this process;

- b) took note of the information contained in C-WP/15667, as well as the comments of the COG thereon, as reflected in its oral report;
- c) approved the *ICAO Policy on Innovation*, as appended to C-WP/15667, subject to the inclusion of the additional amendments agreed by the COG as follows:
 - i. paragraph 1.1 should be amended to make reference to the strategic goals, to read “...in accordance with the strategic goal of No Country Left Behind (NCLB)”;
 - ii. paragraph 3.1 a), regarding the definition of innovation, should be amended to read “When applied to ICAO, it includes supporting, as appropriate, the identification, development and deployment, in coordination with Members States, regulators and/or industry, of more efficient, effective and accessible solutions that enable ICAO to achieve its objectives”; and
 - iii. paragraph 5.4 a), should be amended to end with the word “optimized”, to read, “enhancing ongoing work and performing further gap analysis and other assessments to ensure that the actions of ICAO are optimized.”

Council President Certificates

9. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report from the President of the Council, in which it was recalled that pursuant to C-DEC 205/2, C-DEC 205/3 and C-DEC 206/7, the Council had agreed to establish the “Council President Certificates”, which would serve to recognize States from each ICAO region that have made significant progress in resolving their safety or security oversight deficiencies and improving the level of effective implementation (EI) of safety and/or security oversight systems in compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

10. In doing so, the Council agreed to continue this practice, on the understanding that the Council President Certificates would be awarded at the forthcoming 42nd Session of the Assembly based on the updated eligibility criteria outlined in the oral report. It was further noted that the cut-off date for consideration would be linked to the USAP and USOAP final reports, which would be published by 31 July 2025.

Annual Report of the Ethics Office for 2024

11. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15681, which reported on the activities undertaken by the ICAO Ethics Office during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Committee on Governance (COG).

12. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) took note of the information contained in C-WP/15681, as well as in the COG oral report, and in doing so expressed support for the work of the Ethics Office, requesting that the allocation of adequate resources to the Ethics Office be duly considered during the preparation of the ICAO 2026 – 2028 Regular Budget;
- b) approved the recommendation to add a new category of “unethical conduct” to those included in paragraph 41 of the ICAO Framework on Ethics, as proposed in paragraph 3.4 of C-WP/15681;
- c) took note of the intention of the COG, with the support of the Ethics Advisor, to make progress in exploring options regarding the development of a Code of Conduct for the staff of Delegations to ICAO, as previously requested by the Council (C-DEC 223/10 and C-DEC 231/7 refer), and accordingly, agreed that the COG should report to the Council on this matter during the 235th Session; and
- d) noted that an informal briefing on the implementation of the revised *Policy on Interactions with External Parties* and its Administrative Instructions would be convened during the 235th Session, to which the Ethics Advisor would be invited to participate.

Draft Assembly working paper - Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field

13. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15683, which presented a draft Assembly working paper containing proposed revisions to Assembly Resolution A41-4: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field.

14. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) took note of the information presented in the draft Assembly working paper attached to C-WP/15683, and approved it, subject to further verification by the Secretariat regarding the appropriateness and consistency of the term “adopt” across all the

Assembly working papers in relation to new or amended Resolutions, as well as the accuracy of the titles of the treaties referenced in the draft Resolution appended to the Assembly working paper; and

- b) delegated authority to the President of the Council to thereafter approve the revised working paper on its behalf, for subsequent submission to the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly.

Progress Report on the Implementation of the ICAO Policy on Interactions with External Parties

15. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15679, which reported on the activities undertaken by the Committee on Cooperation with External Parties (CCEP) since the last progress report was presented during the 231st Session (C-DEC 231/2). The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Committee on Governance (COG). In so doing, the Council agreed to waive Rule 26 b) of the Rules of Procedure for the Council, pertaining to the timeline requirement for the issuance of oral reports, since in this case, the oral report had been issued less than three working days in advance of the meeting.

16. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) took note of the information presented in C-WP/15679;
- b) consistent with reporting requirements contained in paragraph 4.4 of the revised ICAO *Policy on Interactions with External Parties* and paragraph 9.7 of the “Due Diligence Framework for Engagements with External Parties”, requested the Secretariat, in coordination with the CCEP, to present the annual report on activities relating to the implementation of the Policy during the 237th Session, it being understood that preliminary information would be provided to the Council during the informal briefing on the implementation of the revised *Policy on Interactions with External Parties* and its Administrative Instructions, to be held in the next Council Session; and
- c) requested that the next annual report of the CCEP include information on the special arrangements made with regard to the 2024 ICAO Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Symposium, including lessons learned and best practices arising from this experience which could be applied to other events in the future.

Any other business

Amendments to the work programme of the Council

17. On the basis of a proposal by the President of the Council, and in addition to the amendments to the work programme for the 234th Session and reflected in the Addendum/Corrigendum No. 1 to C-WP/15614 Revision No. 1, the Council agreed to further amend its work programme, as follows:

- amend item 40, *Financing for Aviation CO₂ Emissions Reduction Measures*, which would now be presented as an oral report of the Chairperson of the Small Group on Financing for Aviation CO₂ Emissions Reduction Measures; and
- add a working paper to be presented by the Kingdom of Bahrain, in English only, during the Council’s consideration of the item “*Progress report on the establishment of a Doha Flight Information Region (FIR) / Search and Rescue Region (SRR).*”

