



C-DEC 237/8
8/4/26

COUNCIL — 237TH SESSION

EIGHTH MEETING

(COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026, AT 1430 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

OPEN MEETING

Convening of the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (AT-Conf/7)

1. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15809 Revision No. 1, which pursuant to C-DEC 235/8, presented a revised provisional agenda for the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (AT-Conf/7). The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Air Transport Committee (ATC).
2. Following consideration, the Council:
 - a) expressed its gratitude to the ATC and its informal group for their hard work to advance the discussions pertaining to the arrangements for AT-Conf/7, and welcomed with appreciation the updated proposal contained in Revision No. 1 to C-WP/15809;
 - b) approved:
 - i. the revised theme of the Conference as presented in paragraph 4.3 (i);
 - ii. the refined objectives, as presented in paragraph 4.3 (ii);
 - iii. the Conference agenda, as presented in Appendix B;
 - iv. the format of the Conference as presented in Appendix C; and
 - v. the proposed list of participating institutions and organizations, as contained in Appendix D; and
 - c) requested the Secretariat to provide regular progress updates to the Council on the organization of the Conference, it being understood that a draft Ministerial Declaration would be presented to the Council for consideration during the 238th Session, following initial coordination and review by the ATC and the informal group.

Provisional Arrangements for the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly for the enlargement of the Council from 36 to 40 Contracting States

3. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15817, which provided information regarding the provisional arrangements for the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in 2026, in the event that the *Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 50 (a)]*, signed at Montréal on 6 October 2016, increasing the membership of the Council from 36 to 40 Contracting States would enter into force within the next months. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Committee on Governance (COG).

4. Following consideration, the Council:
- a) took note of the information contained in C-WP/15817, together with the update on the current status of ratifications to the 2016 Protocol amending Article 50 (a), which had now reached 123 ratifications;
 - b) noted the concerns expressed regarding the cost of convening an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, and in this connection, acknowledged the intention of the Secretariat to continue to explore potential cost-saving measures with a view to reducing the budgetary impact, and to report back to the Council in this regard during the next Session;
 - c) agreed, on a provisional basis, that an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly may be convened in conjunction with the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (AT-Conf/7), in November 2026, provided that the 2016 Protocol amending Article 50 (a) had entered into force by a cut-off date to be established by the Council;
 - d) requested the Secretary General to issue a State letter to encourage those Contracting States that have not yet ratified the 2016 Protocol amending Article 50 (a) to do so at the earliest possible opportunity, and inviting them to indicate, insofar as possible, their anticipated timeframe for completing the ratification process, ahead of the 238th Session; and
 - e) approved the provisional agenda, as set out in the Appendix to C-WP/15817, on the understanding that the Council will return to this matter at the 238th Session, in order to finalize those pending elements pertaining to the convening of an Extraordinary Session, taking into account any relevant developments in this regard.

Rules and procedures for the Accreditation of Representatives to ICAO

5. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15818, which provided an overview of the accreditation process for Representatives to ICAO, particularly as it relates to the situation of dual accreditation of Alternate Representatives on the Council, including accreditation requirements for attendance at closed meetings. The Council also had for consideration an oral report thereon from the Committee on Governance (COG). In doing so, the Council agreed to waive that part of Rule 26 b) pertaining to the timeline requirement for the issuance of oral reports, since in this case, the COG oral report had been issued less than 3 working days in advance of the meeting.

6. Following consideration, the Council:
- a) took note of the information contained in C-WP/15818 and the COG oral report, and in doing so, affirmed the COG's understanding that Rule 1 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Council*, including in the case of closed meetings, is limited to Representatives of Member States on the Council, such that no one person could represent more than one State at any single time in the Council, while acknowledging the distinction between *attendance* and *participation* of Representatives of non-Council Member States in Council discussions, as described in paragraph 4.1 and section 5 of C-WP/15818;
 - b) recalled the long-standing practice that only the Representative of a delegation of a non-Council Member State could be accredited as an Alternate Representative of another State on the Council;
 - c) acknowledging the potential difficulties that may be encountered in case of matters specifically affecting the interests of one of the two States under Articles 53, 54 (n) or 84 of the Chicago Convention, affirmed that Representatives to ICAO should not hold the

status of Alternate Representatives of a State on the Council when they are participating as Observers for their sending State (i.e. the non-Council Member State to which they are accredited as Representative), in order to avoid any circumstances in which a potential conflict of interest may arise;

- d) reaffirmed that closed Council meetings remain open to duly accredited Representatives of non-Council Member States unless decided otherwise by the Council, in accordance with Rule 38 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Council* and the Council's decision concerning its application (PRES Memorandum AK/292, dated 10 March 1992, refers), it being understood that the attendance of such Representatives to ICAO in closed meetings is distinct from that of "Observers" who may be invited to participate in Council under Article 53 of the Convention and Rules 31 or 32 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Council*; and
- e) approved the administrative measures recommended by the COG to address those situations of dual accreditation of Alternate Representatives on the Council, as follows:
 - i. should a State on the Council intend to nominate an Alternate Representative who is already accredited as a Representative to ICAO for a different State, the letter of credentials should also indicate that this status would be suspended in instances where the Alternate Representative concerned would participate in a Council meeting as an Observer of their sending State;
 - ii. the President Memorandum notifying the Council of the credentials of such Alternate Representatives on the Council would include this information to ensure transparency; and
 - iii. requested that any such Alternate Representatives on the Council be clearly identified in the Council and Committee membership lists.

Any other business

Programme of ICAO Meetings

7. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Council with respect to the programme of ICAO meetings for 2026 and tentative programme of meetings for 2027-2028 (C-WP/15763 and C-DEC 236/8, refer), the Council noted an update by the Secretary General confirming that the scheduled programme of meetings for 2026 could be accommodated and supported through cost-effective strategies, notwithstanding the potential additional expenses associated with an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly.

— END —