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## **ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEM 21**

(Presented by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee)

The attached report on Agenda Item 21  
has been approved by the Executive Committee.

*Note.— After removal of this covering sheet, this paper should be inserted in the appropriate place in the report folder.*

(5 pages)

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**Agenda Item 21: United Nations 2030 Agenda - Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs)**

21.1 The Committee reviewed WP/55, presented by the Council, which showcased the activities undertaken by the organization to advocate the benefits of aviation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the important strides made in the area of partnerships.

21.2 The Committee expressed general support of the paper, and encouraged ICAO to continue its leadership in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the ICAO No Country Left Behind Initiative.

21.3 The Committee further encouraged ICAO to work with the United Nations Development Coordination System under the strategic leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators to facilitate strategic conversations on aviation as well as how to better integrate aviation through national planning and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

21.4 The Committee took note of a suggestion made by a Member State to include in the revised draft Resolution, a reference to paragraph 30 of the United Nations Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. The Committee did not support this proposal.

21.5 The Committee underscored the importance of analysing the impacts of aviation on sustainable development and the 17 SDGs. It further was reminded of the mapping analysis undertaken by ICAO to illustrate how its work around the Organization's five Strategic Objectives supports the 17 SDGs. The Committee was informed that the aforementioned analysis would be updated in 2023.

21.6 The Committee further agreed to amend the draft Resolution as appended to WP/55 to include a reference to the challenges and needs of the least developed countries in Africa.

21.7 In this connection, the Committee recommended to the Assembly to adopt the revised Assembly Resolution which is contained in the Appendix to WP/55.

21.8 The Committee further reviewed WP/149 presented by Bangladesh in relation to the importance of national aviation policies or master planning to advance socio-economic development of States. In this respect, the Committee agreed with the actions outlined in WP/149 presented by Bangladesh, encouraging ICAO to develop guidance material on civil aviation planning, and to provide assistance to States through global and regional webinars, workshops and training to enhance their capacity building in developing and implementing their civil aviation plans and strategies. The Committee further was informed that the work on the proposed actions, specifically in relation to the guidance material on National Aviation Planning Framework, as well as the relevant training activities are in progress.

21.9 The Committee noted Information Papers WP/71 presented by IATA, WP/178 presented jointly by IATA, ACI, CANSO, IBAC, ICCAIA, and WP/540 presented by ILO, IFALPA and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). With respect to information paper WP/71, the relevance of circular economy was raised as an item of interest for further work by ICAO.

21.10 In light of the discussion, the Committee agreed to submit for adoption by the Plenary, the following resolution:

**Resolution ~~A40-21~~ A41/xx: Aviation's contribution towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*Recognizing* that air transport is a catalyst for sustainable development and that it represents an essential lifeline for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and especially for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to connect to the world;

*Recognizing* that air transport connectivity is of utmost importance for the economic, social and territorial cohesion of Member States and their populations;

*Recognizing* that the benefits enabled by air transportation can only materialize if States have a safe, efficient, secure, economically viable and environmentally sound air transport system;

*Whereas* the *No Country Left Behind* (NCLB) initiative aims at assisting States in effectively implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), plans, policies and programmes, as well as addressing Significant Safety and Security Concerns so as to ensure that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of air transport;

*Whereas* the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that includes a set of seventeen universal and transformative goals supported by 169 targets that balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

*Recalling* that the scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development call for a global partnership that will bring together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors to mobilize all available resources for its implementation;

*Whereas* the delivery of ICAO Strategic Objectives on safety, air navigation capacity and efficiency, security and facilitation, economic development of air transport, and environmental protection contribute to the attainment of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*Recognizing* that the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the prime venue where States, through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), deliver an update on annual progress and challenges on implementation towards the achievement of the SDGs at a national level;

*Recognizing* the importance of global frameworks to support the Strategic Objectives of ICAO;

*Recognizing* the importance of effective implementation of regional and national plans and initiatives based on the global frameworks;

*Recognizing* that a clearly defined relationship between broader national development plans and strategies and national aviation policies, plans and frameworks is essential to enable the prioritization and optimum allocation of resources to aviation;

*Recalling* the unprecedented global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, destabilizing the aviation industry, including profoundly affecting its workforce, and hampering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG progress;

*Recalling* the continued challenges and needs of the least developed countries in all regions, including in Africa;

*Recognizing* the importance of international solidarity and multilateral partnerships and mechanisms in support of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic recovery that promotes sustainable development of international civil aviation and advances the SDGs;

*The Assembly:*

1. *Urges* Member States to recognize the significant contributions of aviation to sustainable development realized by stimulating employment, trade, tourism and other areas of economic development at the national, regional and global levels, as well as by facilitating humanitarian and disaster response to crises and public health emergencies;

2. *Directs* the Council and the Secretary General, within their respective competencies, to demonstrate that ICAO continues to serve as an advocate for aviation by raising awareness among Member States, including relevant authorities beyond the air transport sector, the United Nations system, the donor community and all relevant stakeholders about aviation's contributions to sustainable development and the attainment of the SDGs;

3. *Urges* Member States to report on aviation, as an enabler of sustainable development, within their VNRs, through establishing linkages with other relevant SDGs;

4. *Encourages* Member States to include clear references to the UN SDGs in their relevant national plans, with the objective of showcasing the contribution of aviation to the UN SDGs and national economies;

5. *Urges* Member States to enhance their air transport systems by effectively implementing ICAO SARPs and policies while at the same time including and elevating the priority of the aviation sector into their national development plans supported by robust air transport sector strategic plans and civil aviation master plans, thereby leading to the attainment of the SDGs;

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider establishing a clearly-defined relationship between their national development plans, and national civil aviation policy, plans and strategies, as well as relevant underlying plans and programmes;

7. *Urges* Member States to ensure that frameworks and capabilities are developed and implemented as necessary and that structures for partnership and collaboration at national, regional and international levels are put in place to ensure resilience of the civil aviation sector to future global challenges in order to ensure continued contributions of aviation to attainment of the SDGs;

8. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their efforts around collaboration and effective partnerships in support of development of civil aviation in particular in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, especially through development assistance, South-South and triangular cooperation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the resilience of their aviation systems through including crisis preparedness plans and risk management measures in their aviation policies, planning and

operations in order help to maintain essential mobility for air passenger and the transport of critical goods in the face of crises while ensuring the safety of aviation workforce;

610. *Directs* the Secretary General to consider the special needs and characteristics of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, identified within the framework of the United Nations, in the coordination, prioritization, facilitation and implementation of assistance programmes aimed at enhancing their air transport systems;

711. *Directs* the Secretary General to continue monitoring and reviewing, when applicable, the contributions made towards the attainment of the SDGs through the implementation of ICAO Strategic Objectives and work programmes;

812. *Directs* the Secretary General to ensure that ICAO participate, when applicable and in alignment with its Strategic Objectives, in appropriate mechanisms put in place to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that aviation is recognized and prioritized as such by Member States in their development plans;

913. *Requests* the Secretary General to enhance existing and establish new partnerships with Member States, the aviation industry, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, donors and other actors to assist Member States in enhancing their air transport systems with a view to contributing, consequently, to the attainment of the SDGs; and

1014. *Declares* that this Resolution supersedes ~~39-25~~A40-21 on *United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development—Sustainable Development Goals*.

#### *States Initiatives and Best Practices*

21.11 The Committee reviewed WP/150 on Deepening Pragmatic Global Civil Aviation Cooperation and Speeding up Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, presented by China.

21.12 The Committee underscored the importance of aviation as a contributor of sustainable development and the Goals of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

21.13 The Committee highlighted the need for ICAO to continue its leading role in assisting Member States, especially the developing countries, through capacity building so as to promote inclusive and sustainable development of the global aviation industry.

21.14 The Committee noted the initiative led by China and reiterated that ICAO remains the global forum of States for international civil aviation and has the mandate to develop policies and Standards, undertakes assistance and capacity building activities for development of international civil aviation in support of sustainable development globally.

21.15 The Committee noted Information Papers WP/484 presented by China on the Index Framework System for Civil Aviation High-quality Development and its Application as well as WP/562 presented by Indonesia on Indonesia's Contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.