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ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

**DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 39**

The attached material on Agenda Item 39 is submitted for consideration by the Economic Commission.

Agenda Item: 39 Other issues to be considered by the Economic Commission

39.1 In WP/153, Iran (Islamic Republic of) informed that the detrimental impact of the embargoes on the civil aviation of the State by the United States has a direct impact on the safety of its aviation industry. The paper urged ICAO to take practical steps to put an end to the unilateral and extraterritorial embargoes of the United States against the civil aviation system of Iran (Islamic Republic of).

39.2 In WP/366, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) provided information on the difficulties faced by its aircraft operators in obtaining aircraft parts, contracting services, keeping technical literature up to date and the training of its flight crew, due to the unilateral coercive measures by several countries. The paper explained that these unilateral coercive measures which constitute a threat to safe operations, are due to the embargo by the government of the United States.

39.3 In WP/596, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) explained that the unilateral arbitrary measures against the States are preventing the Venezuelan civil aviation from having normal commercial relationships with service providers of other States, undermining safety, hindering the capacity and development of air navigation, and curtailing the continued economic growth of air transport. The paper emphasized that the unilateral measures contravene the provisions of the Chicago Convention and therefore requested the Council to carry out an investigation based on Article 55, paragraphs (c), (d) and (e), of the Convention.

39.4 Through WP/597, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) alleged that Member States with subsisting bilateral agreements with the Venezuelan State, are allowing private firms in their States to refuse to provide specialized airport services to Venezuelan air operators, without taking into consideration Article 28 of the Chicago Convention. The paper requested the Council to make a determination for States to provide services and airport facilities for safe operation of aircraft on international flights in accordance with the Convention.

39.5 In information paper WP/446, China reported its experience in the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) logistics, which has created new momentum in the transformation of the industry and consumption in rural areas, and is conducive to the rural economic development and the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

39.6 In information paper WP/449, China highlighted the contributions of the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in boosting urban logistics efficiency in city clusters. The paper explained that the use of UAVs plays a salient role in contributing to cost reduction, efficiency and quality improvement of urban logistics, and helps to promote the upgrading of this industry.

39.7 In information paper WP/404, Cuba reported that the decision of the United States to activate Title III of the Helms-Burton Act has adversely affected the development of civil aviation in Cuba, in particular foreign firms intending to establish businesses connected with investments in the modernization of Cuban airports and the operations of various countries' airlines that link Cuba to the world. The paper reaffirmed that unilateral and extraterritorial actions, have a great impact on developing countries, and in particular, impede the international air transport.

39.8 The Commission noted the information contained in WP/153, WP/366, WP/596 and WP/597. Some States expressed support for the papers and cautioned against unilateral actions by States, due to their negative impact on the right of a State to develop civil aviation as enshrined in the Chicago Convention. They reminded that the role of ICAO is to provide a platform for States to develop international civil aviation in a safe and orderly manner, on the basis of equality of opportunity. In response, the United States affirmed its position on this matter by stating that ICAO is not the proper venue to debate United States' sanctions, as they target specific behaviours of certain States and that the United States' sanctions will be enforced until those behaviours stop. It reaffirmed that the United States will continue to uphold all of its international obligations to ensure the safety and security of international aviation.

39.9 The Commission recognized that the issues raised in these papers were complex, political and sensitive, and that these issues have been raised at previous Assemblies. The Commission therefore agreed to reflect the discussions on this item in its report to the Plenary. It was also decided that these matters be brought to the attention of the President of the Council, whose "good offices" had been involved in these issues in the past.

39.10 The Commission noted the information contained in WP/446, WP/449 and WP/404.

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