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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION ON AGENDA ITEM 34

(Presented by the Chairman of the Economic Commission)

The attached report on Agenda Item 34 has been approved by the Economic Commission.

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

(3 pages)

Agenda Item 34: Aviation Data — Monitoring and Analysis

34.1 In WP/19, the Council reported on the modernization of the ICAO Statistics Programme and its associated benefits, as well as activities related to big data, including details of the data sets and on-going analyses carried out in collaboration with other United Nations (UN) agencies, international organizations, academia, etc. This paper also presents ICAO's plan for future work related to the Statistics Programme and big data analytics (a part of aviation data and analysis work programme), which aims to support States and aviation stakeholders in using a data-driven decision- and policy-making approach to improving safety, as well as operational and economic efficiency of air transport.

34.2 In WP/20, the Council reported on activities in the area of forecasting and planning pursuant to Assembly Resolution A39-15, which requested the Council to update the single set of long-term traffic forecasts. This paper also presented ICAO's plan for future work related to forecasting and planning which will focus on the continued update of the existing forecasts with further refinements of econometric methodologies and data sets using big data, and on the enhancement of the online analytical tool for the development of more detailed and customized forecasts, to meet the varied needs of States and other stakeholders.

34.3 In WP/21, the Council presented a methodological framework of the Aviation Satellite Account (ASA), which can be used for the measurement of the direct economic contribution of aviation to national economy, in line with the internationally-agreed standard of the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA). The paper also presented ICAO's future work in this area, focusing on the finalization and validation of the ASA methodological framework, obtaining the endorsement of the ASA methodological framework by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), raising the awareness of the ASA and promoting its acceptance by States, and providing assistance for the ASA implementation by the Member States.

34.4 In WP/184, the 54 States, Members of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) presented information about the African Programme on Aviation Data (AfPAD). The project included the collection and analysis of statistical data in the context of the liberalization of air transport in Africa through the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

34.5 In information paper WP/499, Argentina presented the improvements and advancements taken in the collection of aviation data and statistics and development of a civil aviation statistics programme. This initiative consists in the collection and dissemination of civil aviation data, for use by the State, including passenger and cargo traffic, load factor, traffic by route and market shares

34.6 In information paper WP/551, Dominican Republic presented a case study developed jointly by the State, ICAO Secretariat and the Inter-American Development Bank to highlight the importance of policy initiatives in civil aviation to boost traffic and bring benefits to the national economy.

34.7 In reviewing the ICAO Statistics Programme and big data analytics, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of a comprehensive and reliable set of aviation data and analysis, which is required for effective data-driven policy-making by States. The Commission endorsed the work

programme of the Organization as presented in WP/19. It was also noted that many States requested ICAO to make statistics available free of charge to Member States.

34.8 The Commission also reviewed the report on the updated single set of long-term traffic forecasts presented in WP/20. While noting the forecast results, the Commission endorsed ICAO's work programme related to forecasting for the next triennium. The planned work would include the regular update and refinement of the long-term traffic forecasts and methodologies. A comment was provided that a forecast model using a constant income elasticity of demand may lead to the overestimation of traffic volume, especially for developing countries whose gross domestic product (GDP) per capita will reach maturity after a certain period.

34.9 Concerning the ASA methodological framework, the Commission agreed to the proposed future work as presented in WP/21. In this regard, a view was expressed that the accuracy of the estimated result of direct economic impacts should be validated specifically by vetting the framework with stakeholder experts using aviation specific data to measure the economic impact of aviation in countries where such data is available, before presenting the ASA framework to the Air Transport Committee (ATC). Consequently, the proposed Assembly Resolution would be amended to reflect this view. Comments and suggestions provided during the deliberations will be considered in refining the methodologies (for instance, inclusion of aircraft manufacturing in the scope of measurement of civil aviation industry).

34.10 As regards WP/184, the Commission agreed that ICAO should share aviation data submitted by African States with AFCAC to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce burden on States. It was also agreed that ICAO should cooperate with AFCAC on the African Programme on Aviation Data (AfPAD).

34.11 The Commission noted the information contained in WPs/499 and 551.
