



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR TRANSLATION OF ICAO PUBLIC WEBSITES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION INTO ARABIC

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The Arabic language was gradually introduced in ICAO as an official working language through the implementation of different Assembly resolutions. ICAO is fully committed to Assembly Resolution A37-25, ICAO Policy on Language Services, which reaffirms that parity and quality of services in all of the working languages of ICAO are the continuous objectives of the Organization. Since 2011, ICAO is able to provide interpretation and translation services in the Arabic language to meetings, thus achieving parity in all the working languages of the Organization. Moreover, all new publications and new editions of publications are translated into Arabic.

ICAO is strongly committed to Multilingualism, but, due to limited resources, solicits the support of Member States in the form of voluntary contributions in order to offer access to the ICAO public websites in the Arabic language as well as to translate relevant documents that are not yet available in Arabic but which, due to lack of funds, await translation.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. During DGCA-MID/1 and DGCA-MID/2, the Secretariat presented working papers seeking the support of Member States in the form of voluntary contributions in order to progress with the phase-in of documents not available in Arabic and with the translation of ICAO's public websites. In the Meeting Report of DGCA-MID/1, Agenda Item 11, the meeting encouraged MID States to provide voluntary contributions to support and expedite the issuance of ICAO publications in Arabic. In the Meeting Report of DGCA-MID/2, Agenda Item 12, the meeting encouraged MID States to provide additional voluntary contributions and/or support for the translation of ICAO's publications and websites into Arabic.

2. DECISION BY THE 38TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

2.1. The 38th Session of the Assembly recognized multilingualism as a fundamental principle to achieve the goals of ICAO and requested the Council to closely monitor the implementation of the policies and decisions it had adopted to enhance efficiency and effectiveness on language service matters. The Secretary General fully endorsed this principle, while highlighting budgetary concerns. Since ICAO could not dedicate more funds to language services due to budgetary constraints, Member States were encouraged to support these activities through voluntary financial contributions or contributions in kind.

3. TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

3.1. *ICAO Public websites:* In State Letter A4/32-11/32 – *Voluntary support for language translation and hosting services of ICAO public websites in languages other than English* – the Secretary General outlined that, due to budgetary constraints the voluntary financial support of Member States would be essential in order to undertake this project. The initial translation work is estimated at USD 264,000 with an additional annual support cost of USD 66,000 for maintenance of translated texts to reflect any changes made in the original English texts.

3.2. *ICAO Publications:* Parity of all six ICAO working languages was achieved in 2011 and all new publications are now translated into Arabic. Moreover, publications not yet available in Arabic have been gradually phased-in, as and when resources have become available. However, certain relevant publications are not yet available in Arabic as no additional resources have been provided for their translation. Since the last report to the DGCA during MID/2, no additional contributions have been received, and an additional amount of USD 360,000 is still required to complete the translation of the remaining documents.

3.3. Member States can also assist by providing non-financial translation support for public websites or publications. This support can be offered through secondment of translators to ICAO or through in-country translation services.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1. The meeting is invited to strongly encourage Member States to provide voluntary contributions, secondment of translators to ICAO or in-country translation services for the translation of ICAO's publications and websites into Arabic to facilitate the dissemination of information in support of safety and security of civil aviation.