



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

**STATEMENT PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF
AVIATION AND SPACE MEDICINE (IAASM)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper relates to the Strategic Objective of Continuity

Mr. President, Fellow Delegates, Mr. Secretary General and ICAO Staff, Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is a great honor for the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine to have been invited and be present at the 37th Session of the Assembly. It wishes all delegates very fruitful, successful and cost-effective deliberations.

Mr. President, almost two decades have elapsed since the time this prestigious and solemn Assembly adopted Resolution **A29-15: Smoking restrictions on international passenger flights** setting a significant trend in line with considerations by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), that occupational safety and health are interrelated and cannot be separated. The Academy is very pleased that this relationship has been further emphasized by the adoption by ICAO of Resolution **A35-12: Protection of the health of passengers and crews and prevention of the spread of communicable disease through international travel** in which the Assembly “*Declares* that the protection of the health of passengers and crews on international flights is an integral element of safe air travel and that conditions should be in place to ensure its preservation in a timely and cost-effective manner”.

In existence since 1955 and having been recognized by the ICAO Council in 1970, the Academy noticed with pleasure that the above Resolutions and ICAO’s present work program take into account matters applicable to **all occupants** of aircraft including passengers, a significant component of the aviation system which is nowadays being evaluated in many areas of the world in relation to health, safety, comfort and well being.

It should be remembered that in the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), the concept of well-being has been introduced in the definition of Health, namely: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

The Academy wishes to congratulate ICAO on its speedy and very effective response to the outbreak of SARS, and the significant additional work leading to the present **Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA)** activities. After analyzing Council Working papers A37-WP/58 and WP/59 entitled: “Improved management of communicable disease in the aviation sector through multi-sector collaboration” and “Preventing the spread of communicable disease through non-chemical methods”, the Academy wishes to associate itself with the Council’s invitation to the Assembly to adopt the relevant Resolutions.

Cognizant of article **14 of the Convention: Prevention of spread of disease**, the Academy is very conscious of the importance of an aviation preparedness plan (States, Carriers and Airports) in the event of a public health emergency of international concern and compliments ICAO for having developed such plan.

And it also wishes to report that Academicians were invited and actively participated in the development and delivery of such related activities.

Finally, Mr. President, the Academy wishes to point out that the gathering of high level decision makers in this Solemn Assembly has been made possible by aviation. The majority of persons in this room came to Montreal flying as passengers in order to strengthen and improve international civil aviation.

Therefore, the Academy sincerely hopes that, when these passengers return home, they will be satisfied for having contributed to create an awareness of passenger related issues and that ICAO, in coordination with WHO and other relevant bodies will continue to “meet the needs of the peoples of the world” as prescribed by **Article 44 of the Chicago Convention** giving due consideration to health issues associated with air transport.

Thank you Mr. President

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