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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION
ECONOMIC COMMISSION

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 53

The attached material on Agenda Item 53 is submitted for consideration by the Economic Commission.

Agenda Item 53: Economic Analysis

53.1 At its first meeting, the Commission considered developments in the statistics, forecasting and economic analysis programmes on the basis of a report of the Council (WP/7, Corrigenda Nos. 1, 2 and 3). In addition, three working papers were presented by Venezuela WP/300, WP/301 and WP/302 and one Information paper was presented by India (WP/170).

53.2 In WP/7, the Council reported to the Assembly on the key outputs and adjustments to the Organization's work programmes relating to statistics, forecasting and economic analysis. The paper also presented the plan of action for the next triennium in these fields. The future tasks include the implementation of the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Statistics Division (STA/10), held in November 2009, as well as the development of various sets of forecasts and economic studies. In addition, support would be provided to the Traffic Forecasting Groups (TFGs) and manuals on forecasting and the statistics programme would be revised. The future work programme also calls for workshops and training sessions to be held on a cost-recovery basis.

53.3 Venezuela, in WP/300, proposed that a single chart of accounts be developed by the Organization. Such a chart would serve to harmonize and standardize the accounting systems of all companies in the aviation sector. It would decrease the disparity between and rationalize the delivery of information collected by the aviation authorities as well as provide a source of information for the development of necessary financial indicators for decision making.

53.4 In WP/301, Venezuela proposed that a method be developed to measure price variation in the aeronautical sector and to allow for a global diagnosis that would take into account the factors affecting activities in the sector to enable the authorities concerned to develop strategy and take timely action to mitigate the adverse impact of economic fluctuations on the sector.

53.5 In WP/302, Venezuela, underscoring the importance of verifiable statistics and economic aviation indicators for planning and decision making by various aviation stakeholders, stressed the need for the Organization to promote and implement a continuous and systematic training programme for States in order to improve the quality and timeliness of aviation statistics submitted under the ICAO Statistics Programme.

53.6 In an information paper (WP/170), India described aviation data collections maintained by major civil aviation stakeholders in India, data dissemination as well as new initiatives, including an IT-led solution for the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. It also informed about the establishment of a Committee of Experts on Air Transport Forecasting/Planning to develop quality and reliable forecasts and to act as a think tank for the civil aviation industry.

53.7 The Commission noted the activities undertaken by the Organization in the fields of statistics, forecasting and economic analysis. It recognized that there was no duplication of forecasting activities with those carried out by the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), as the development of forecasts to support the airports and air navigation systems planning and environmental planning as well as to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Objectives was the mandatory function of the Organization. It endorsed the future tasks planned by the Organization in these fields.

53.8 Some States expressed concerns regarding the cost recovery principle to be applied to future training and workshops while others felt that the additional training activities proposed in WP 302 would require extra resources which the Organization lacks. In view of the resource constraints that the Organization will be facing in the next triennium, particularly in the air transport field, the Commission did not endorse the waiving of this cost recovery principle or additional training activities.

53.9 The Commission recognized the substantial work and resources that would be required for the future tasks proposed in WPs 300 and 301. Furthermore, it noted difficulties experienced by some States and organizations in attempting to conduct similar studies, including collecting and managing data and information, as well as the resource implication of these tasks for the Organization. Consequently, the Commission did not endorse the proposed tasks.
