



A37-WP/330
EC/36
30/9/10

ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION
ECONOMIC COMMISSION

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 54

The attached material on Agenda Item 54 is submitted for consideration by the Economic Commission.

Agenda Item 54: Other issues to be considered by the Economic Commission

54.1 The Commission considered this item based on two papers: WP/312 by Cuba and an information paper WP/215 by Malaysia.

54.2 In WP/312, Cuba provided updated information on and evidence of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on it by the United States of America, and the impacts of such blockade on all of its economic sectors, including civil aviation. Cuba invited the Assembly to acknowledge that such unilateral measures negatively affecting the development of civil aviation, constituted a violation of the principles and objectives of the Chicago Convention; and to request the Secretary General to inform Secretary General of the United Nations of the impacts of these measures on Cuban civil aviation and for an annual report to be made to the Council by the President of the Council, for as long as these impacts remain in effect.

54.3 In the discussion that followed, a number of delegations stated their support for the position taken by Cuba, and for the actions proposed in the paper. In their view, the US embargoes on some States had an adverse impact on civil aviation of the countries concerned, especially on economic development of air transport. Such unilateral measures affected their participation in international air transport activities, causing additional expenses in order to fulfil safety obligations under the Chicago Convention due to their denial of access to aircraft, spare parts and aviation equipment, as well as technical support. Although recognizing that the issue was a political one, it also had an economic impact on civil aviation. They felt that this was not just a bilateral matter but one that could have wider effects on third parties. They considered ICAO the appropriate forum to examine this matter because the principles and provisions of the Chicago Convention were at issue. Highlighting the lack of progress in resolving the issue in ICAO, they called for more effective action by the Assembly and the Council to address this matter.

54.4 The United States expressed the view that the matter was a bilateral political issue not appropriate for discussion at this forum dealing with technical matters. It requested that the matter be handled appropriately, and suggested that it be referred to the President of the Council. A delegation expressed the view that this was not an issue for the Economic Commission but one of political nature that should be dealt with by the Council.

54.5 The Commission noted the information contained in WP/312 and recognized that this was a complex, delicate and sensitive issue which had generated strong views on each side but one which the Economic Commission could not resolve. It was therefore decided that the Chairperson of the Commission would bring this matter, including the views expressed in the Commission and the concerns expressed by Cuba and others over the lack of progress, to the attention of the President of the Council, whose “good offices” had been involved in this issue on previous occasions.

54.6 Through an information paper WP/215, Malaysia explained the need and benefit of introducing a State aviation planning approach, spearheaded by aviation authorities, which it believed could help eliminate wastage of resources and achieve economic efficiency of the aviation sector. The Commission noted the information contained in the paper.