



A37-WP/348
TE/169
1/10/10

ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION
TECHNICAL COMMISSION

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 32

The attached material on Agenda Item 32 is submitted for consideration by the Technical Commission.

Agenda Item 32: Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs)

32.1 The Commission reviewed A37-WP/10, presented by the Council, which highlighted the activities undertaken by the ICAO Implementation Support and Development (ISD) Programme since the 36th Session of the Assembly. These included: assistance to States and regional safety oversight systems and actions in support of the Audit Result Review Board (ARRB) process; the ICAO-endorsed Government Safety Inspector (GSI) training programme; and the sharing and exchange of aviation safety information. The report also highlighted the coordination of assistance efforts by ICAO, the United States Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the European Commission and the World Bank.

32.2 WP/10 also proposed an Assembly resolution to supersede Resolutions A36-2: *Unified strategy to resolve safety-related deficiencies* and A36-3: *Implementation Support and Development (ISD) Programme – Safety*.

32.3 In A37-WP/166, presented by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) on behalf of the fifty-three African States, the importance of establishing RSOOs in the African and Indian Ocean (AFI) Region to help States discharge their safety oversight obligations was stressed. AFCAC fully supported ICAO's efforts to foster the development and sustainability of RSOOs and requested that ICAO continue to work closely with AFCAC toward the improvement of aviation safety in the AFI region. AFCAC encouraged African States to invest in and support RSOOs.

32.4 In A37-WP/169, the East African Community (EAC) Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) provided a brief on their achievements during the period of 2007 through 2010 that, *inter alia*, included collaboration between member States and with the ICAO Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Regional Office towards strengthening the safety oversight capabilities in the region. The Agency also presented its *Five Year Strategic and Organization Development Plans* that provide for its systematic development. CASSOA invited the Assembly to request ICAO to work with stakeholders to ensure that the support provided is relevant and within the plan(s) of the States and subregional and regional oversight organizations.

32.5 In A37-WP/221, the Commission considered the paper presented by South Africa, which highlighted the regional initiatives of *The Upgrade of Aeronautical Meteorological Services in SADC to satisfy ICAO Requirements*, a project of the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA) to enhance the safety of air navigation. The paper called for the Commission to support these initiatives and, in particular, the MASA Project. It was proposed that the Assembly request States to cooperate in the formation of RSOOs for the provision of aeronautical meteorological and other aviation-related services and that ICAO establish mechanisms to promote resource mobilization efforts of struggling regions and build partnerships with development agencies.

32.6 A procedural issue was raised concerning WP/308, paragraph 3.3.1, on which the Secretary made a statement indicating that ICAO strictly follows the United Nations policy on Cyprus and fully recognizes the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus.

32.7 The Commission fully supported the work of the ISD-Safety Programme, particularly in respect to activities for fostering the development and sustainability of RSOOs and the standardization of the training of government safety inspectors and urged ICAO to continue its efforts to support RSOOs.

32.8 Information papers were provided by Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine (A37-WP/291); Turkey (A37-WP/308); and L'Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) (A37-WP/259).

32.9 In light of the discussion, the Commission agreed to submit, for adoption by the Plenary, the following resolution:

Resolution 32/1: Regional cooperation and assistance to resolve safety-related deficiencies

Whereas a primary objective of the Organization continues to be that of ensuring the safety of international civil aviation worldwide;

Whereas ensuring the safety of international civil aviation is also the responsibility of Contracting States both collectively and individually;

Whereas in accordance with Article 37 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* each Contracting State undertakes to collaborate in securing the highest practicable degree of uniformity in regulation, standards, procedures and organization in relation to aircraft, personnel, airports, airways and auxiliary services in all matters in which uniformity will facilitate and improve air navigation;

Whereas the improvement of the safety of international civil aviation on a worldwide basis requires the active collaboration of all stakeholders;

Whereas the Convention and its Annexes provide the legal and operational framework for Contracting States to build a civil aviation safety system based on mutual trust and recognition, requiring that all Contracting States implement the SARPs as far as practicable and adequately perform safety oversight;

Whereas the results of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) indicate that several Contracting States have not yet been able to establish a satisfactory national safety oversight system;

Whereas ICAO plays a leadership role in facilitating the implementation of SARPs and the rectification of safety-related deficiencies;

Whereas the High level Safety Conference 2010 recommended that States should support ICAO in efforts to foster the development and sustainability of regional safety oversight organizations and should participate and actively support regional safety oversight organizations whenever possible;

Whereas ICAO has a Policy on Regional Cooperation which is committed to render assistance, advice and any other form of support, to the extent possible, in the technical and policy aspects of international civil aviation to Contracting States in carrying out their responsibilities pertaining to the

Convention on International Civil Aviation and ICAO Strategic Objectives, inter alia by promoting regional cooperation through close partnerships with regional organizations and regional civil aviation bodies;

Recognizing that not all Contracting States have the requisite human, technical and financial resources to adequately perform safety oversight;

Recognizing that the establishment of subregional and regional aviation safety and safety oversight bodies, including regional safety oversight organizations, has great potential to assist States in complying with their obligations under the Chicago Convention through economies of scale and harmonization on a larger scale;

Recognizing that the assistance available to Contracting States experiencing difficulties in correcting deficiencies identified through the safety oversight audits would be greatly enhanced by coordination amongst all Contracting States, ICAO and other concerned parties in civil aviation operations;

The Assembly:

1. *Directs* the Council to promote the concept of regional cooperation for the purpose of enhancing safety and safety oversight, including the establishment of regional safety oversight organizations;

2. *Directs* the Council to continue to partner with Contracting States, industry and other stakeholders for coordinating and facilitating the provision of financial and technical assistance to States and subregional and regional safety and safety oversight bodies, including regional safety oversight organizations, in order to enhance safety and strengthen safety oversight capabilities;

3. *Directs* the Council to continue the analysis of relevant safety-critical information for determining effective means of providing assistance to States and subregional and regional safety and safety oversight bodies, including regional safety oversight organizations;

4. *Directs* the Council to continue implementing an Implementation Support and Development – Safety (ISD-Safety) Programme to provide assistance to States and subregional and regional safety and safety oversight bodies, including regional safety oversight organizations;

5. *Urges* Contracting States to develop and further strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation in order to promote the highest degree of aviation safety;

6. *Encourages* Contracting States to foster the creation of regional or sub-regional partnerships to collaborate in the development of solutions to common problems to build State safety oversight capability, and to participate in, or provide tangible support for, the strengthening and furtherance of subregional and regional aviation safety and safety oversight bodies, including regional safety oversight organizations;

7. *Encourages* Contracting States to establish partnerships with other States, industry, air navigation service providers, financial institutions and other stakeholders to strengthen safety

oversight capabilities, in order to better discharge State responsibilities and foster a safer international civil aviation system;

8. *Requests* the Council to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly on the overall implementation of the Programme; and

9. *Declares* that this resolution supersedes Resolutions A36-2 and A36-3.

— END —