



A37-WP/363
P/37
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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA ITEMS 21 AND 22

(Presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee)

The attached report on Agenda Items 21 and 22 has been approved by the Executive Committee. Resolution 22/1 is recommended for adoption by the Plenary.

Note.— After removal of this covering sheet, this paper should be inserted in the appropriate place in the report folder.

(5 pages)

Agenda Item 21: Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of ICAO

21.1 At its fifth meeting, the Executive Committee considered three working papers (A37-WP/34, 123, 305 and 306) dealing with increasing the effectiveness of ICAO.

21.2 The Director of the Bureau of Administration and Services introduced A37-WP/34, which contained the report of the Council of ICAO outlining the continuing progress to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, as requested by 36th Session of the Assembly. This report identified actions aiming at improvement of the efficiency of the Assembly, the Council and the Secretariat as well as ongoing actions for the 2011-2013 triennium.

21.3 A37-WP/305, presented by Saudi Arabia contained a proposal for achieving more efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the governing bodies of ICAO through considering holding the Assembly sessions every two years and establishing the budget of the Organization for two years. The document instructs the Council of ICAO to consider the possibility of holding the ICAO Assembly sessions every two years, gradual adoption of a two-year budget for the Organization and submission a report thereon to the next session of the ICAO Assembly. The Secretary General provided some elements for the Committee to consider, such as the requirement in Article 50 a) of the Chicago Convention that the Council be elected every three years, as well as a recent conclusion of the Council Working Group on Governance that ordinary sessions of the Assembly should continue to be held every three years. The view was expressed that if this matter were to be referred to the Council, the remit should be more open-ended to allow the Council to examine other or additional methods of achieving efficiencies, in light of the demands a biennial Assembly would place on the Secretariat.

21.4 After further discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Plenary the action proposed in WP/305, namely, to instruct the Council to consider the possibility of holding Assembly sessions every two years and a gradual adoption of a two-year budget for the Organization, and to submit a report thereon to the next session of the Assembly. In examining this matter, the Council should ensure that the preparation for an Assembly Session every two years would not result in any additional overhead costs for the Organization. The Council should also consider the possibility of reducing the number of Council Sessions, from three to two, during a year when the Assembly will be convened.

21.5 A37-WP/306, presented by Saudi Arabia, described some requirements for the ICAO to catch up with developments in the field of management and control, as well as in the world of international civil aviation. For example, ICAO was invited to consider improving internal control frameworks and introducing human resources strategies. The paper presented some aspects of ICAO's internal working methods that need improvement, and provided suggestions for thereon. The Director of the Bureau of Administration and Services pointed out that as discussed in agenda item 19 of today's meeting, in the context of the review of the Organization's Human Resources Service Code, most of the recommendations in the paper were addressed and should be implemented shortly.

21.6 A37-WP/123, presented by the 53 Contracting States, Members of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), invited the Assembly to support the ICAO Regional Offices in Africa, in light of the major role played by these offices in providing assistance to States in the Africa-Indian

Ocean (AFI) Region in all civil aviation domains. The paper proposed that the Assembly instruct the Secretary General to allocate appropriate resources to the regional offices serving Africa.

21.7 The Secretary General reported and, the Committee noted with appreciation, that the three Regional Offices in Africa, i.e. Cairo, Dakar and Nairobi, are at full establishment and that he has already taken action to allocate seven additional posts and a total of CAD 4 million in the next triennium (2011-13).

21.8 Having considered A37-WP/34, 123, 305 and 306, the Committee proposed that the Assembly:

- 1) Recognizes the progress that has been made and results achieved in the implementation of Assembly Resolutions A31-2 and A32-1 and the decision of the 36th Session of the Assembly on increasing effectiveness of ICAO;
- 2) Requests the Council to continue, as part of the ongoing process to work on the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of ICAO, and to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
- 3) Requests the Council to study the proposal put forward in A37-WP/305, taking into consideration the need to ensure that the preparation for an Assembly Session every two years would not result in any additional overhead costs for the Organization. The Council should also consider the possibility of reducing the number of Council Sessions, from three to two, during a year when the Assembly will be convened. The Assembly requests the Council to submit a report thereon to the next session of the Assembly.

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Agenda Item 22: Other high level policy issues to be considered by the Executive Committee

22.1 At its fifth session, the Committee considered WP/237 presented by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. This paper reported on the negative impact of the current ICAO policy on language services, which is aimed at the significant funding reduction for the Language and Publication Branch (LPB) and sets goals of up to 60 per cent for the outsourcing of translations. The paper proposed actions aimed at restitution of the multilingualism principle within ICAO as a specialized UN Agency.

22.2 The Committee welcomed the paper, noting its emphasis on the importance of language services to ICAO, especially when it came to substantial documents such as the Standards and Recommended Practices. The paper was also supported for underlying the importance of multilingualism in a global multilateral organization such as ICAO.

22.3 It was pointed out, however, that some of the requirements proposed in the paper were already set-out in Annex 5 of the 2011-2012-2013 Budget which had been unanimously agreed in the Administration Commission and would be brought to the Plenary. It was further noted that some of the proposed measures would result in micro-management of the Organization or would burden the resources of ICAO and would therefore need to be amended. As a consequence, the Committee agreed to review the proposed Resolution by focusing on the requirements for improved quality control within the Organization.

22.4 Having considered WP/237, the Committee proposed that, with the objective of improving ICAO's policy on language services, the Assembly adopt the following resolution:

Resolution 22/1: ICAO Policy on the Language services

Whereas the provision of adequate levels of service in the working languages of ICAO pursuant to the relevant Assembly resolutions and decisions, is highly important to the world-wide dissemination of ICAO documentation, in particular the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), and to the proper functioning of the Organization and its standing bodies;

Whereas it is essential to maintain parity and quality of service in all working languages of the Organization; and

Whereas it is vitally important to ensure a unified and harmonized understanding of ICAO Publications by all Contracting States in all ICAO working languages, in order to maintain the safety and security of international civil aviation and to minimize the impact of aviation on the environment;

The Assembly:

1. *Reaffirms* that multilingualism is one of the fundamental principles to achieve goals of ICAO as the specialized UN agency;

2. *Reaffirms* its previous resolutions regarding the strengthening of the working languages of ICAO;
3. *Recognizes* that language services are an integral part of any ICAO programme;
4. *Resolves* that parity and quality of service in all of the working languages of ICAO be the continuous objective of the Organization;
5. *Resolves* that the introduction of a new language should not affect the quality of service in the other working languages of the Organization;
6. *Resolves* that the Council continue to monitor language services, which will be a subject of review;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to develop and implement a quality management system in the field of language services;
8. *Requests* the Secretary General of ICAO to adhere to UN best practices related to the language Services, including temporary recruitment of staff at peak periods and the level of outsourcing translations and interpretation;
9. *Requests* the Council to consider the need for amendment of Doc 7231/11 “ICAO Publication Regulations” to provide dissemination of ICAO publications in all working languages of ICAO;
10. *Invites* those Member States who represent ICAO’s working languages, if they so desire, to support ICAO through the establishment of officially recognized centres for translation of ICAO publications and by the secondment of competent staff to the ICAO Secretariat, including the Regional Offices, in order to reduce backlogs and support special events; and
11. *Declares* that this Resolution supersedes Assembly Resolution A31-17.

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