ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 22**

The attached material on Agenda Item 22 is submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee.

(3 pages)

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

22.1   At its fifth meeting, the Committee considered WP/237 presented by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. The paper reported on the negative impact of the current ICAO policy on language services, which is aimed at a 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 the 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 Administrative 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/…: ICAO policy on 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 of the 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 the goals of ICAO as a 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, subject to the availability of resources;

8.   *Requests* the Secretary General of ICAO to adhere to UN best practices related to language services;

9.   *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 the 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

10.   *Declares* that this Resolution supersedes Assembly Resolution A31-17.

— END —