



ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 10: Election of Contracting States to be represented on the Council

CANDIDATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the candidature of the Republic of South Africa for election to the Council of ICAO and seeks the support of Contracting States.

Introduction

1 Following the readmission of democratic South Africa to the family of nations, South Africa sought to join the Contracting African States representing Africa in the Council of ICAO and otherwise playing an increasing role in the development of civil aviation. When the 34th Session of the Assembly elected South Africa to the Council in March 2004, South Africa made a commitment to do her utmost in the interest of ICAO and in the context of other developing Contracting States.

Presentation

2 The Government of the Republic of South Africa has the honour to present to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of ICAO, her candidature for re-election to the Council of ICAO for the triennium 2004—2007.

Overview of South Africa

3 South Africa is located at the Southern section of Africa with extensive exposure to both the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, a location which also enjoys the opportunity to share borders with six other Contracting States. This unique geographical location and being one the busiest air traffic zones in Africa, predisposes South Africa as a major player in providing air navigation services to flights destined for or originating from major airports such as Johannesburg International Airport which is ranked first in the Continent in terms of traffic volumes.

4 In just 10 years of her democratic existence, South Africa has taken a very keen and willing interest in international affairs and has hosted a number of major international events including the ICAO/Unidroit Diplomatic Conference which resulted in the Cape Town Convention, held in Cape Town in 2001 and the 17th Plenary Session of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) in May 2004, where African Contracting States affirmed their confidence in South Africa by electing her to the Presidency of AFCAC.

Aviation Activity in South Africa

5 At a glance, the following are reflective of the level of civil aviation activity in South Africa:

- a) There are over 8 500 aircraft currently on the South African aircraft register;
- b) Over 1700 licensed personnel, which include aircraft maintenance engineers, cabin crews and over 13,000 active pilots;
- c) Around 138 licensed airports;
- d) Twenty three (23) air traffic services units nationwide;
- e) Over 567,000 aircraft movements out of 21 airports where the Air Traffic and Navigation Service (ATNS) provides air traffic services;
- f) Over 23,800,000 passengers, 13,300,000 of which were at Johannesburg International Airport, the busiest airport in Africa;
- g) There are 50 airlines operating in the South African airspace, 10 of which are South African. South African Airways, the largest on the Continent plays a major role in providing Continental in Intercontinental air links.
- h) South African Airways (SAA) has a fleet of over 60 aircraft including several of the largest and longest aircraft today. Its route network reaches all six Continents where it provides over 257,000 seats a week in 2400 flights.

6 Beyond its territorial borders, South Africa has international responsibilities for the provision of air traffic services and search and rescue, extending deep into the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (from 10 degrees West to 75 degrees East), and as far South as the South Pole. On 4 June 2004, the Minister of Transport in South Africa formally launched the South African Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), one of the very few centres that cover the Southern Hemisphere, which will be playing a major role in complementing the aviation search and rescue efforts over the high seas, all the way to the South Pole.

7 South Africa is otherwise a major role player in terms of its contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation, as well as an active participant in various aspects of international civil aviation development.

South Africa's Commitment

8 South Africa has annually honoured her obligation with respect to Contracting States' assessment contribution to ICAO, and pledges to continue doing so.

9 When Contracting States attending the 34th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly elected South Africa to the Council in March 2003, we pledged to remain cognizant of the wishes of developing States in the affairs of ICAO. South Africa remains committed, as we have demonstrated since our election to the Council, to work in close cooperation with other Contracting States, particularly those in Council towards a better civil aviation industry for all.

10 We remain confident that with the continued support and cooperation of Contracting States, South Africa's contribution to global civil aviation is destined to experience even better success in the world's common interest.

Action by the Assembly

11 The Assembly is requested to note the information contained in this paper and to support the candidature of the Republic of South Africa to the Council of ICAO under Part II of the election process.

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