



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

A35-WP/250¹
P/39
29/09/04

ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

PLENARY

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

CANDIDATURE OF LEBANON

(Presented by Lebanon)

1. Lebanon has the honour to announce to the 35th Session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) its candidature for re-election as a Member State of the Council in Part III for the next triennium.
2. The candidature of Lebanon is based on the following important considerations:
 - Lebanon is a founding member of ICAO since 1944 and has adhered to the majority of the international conventions drawn by the Organization.
 - Thanks to its geographical and historical context, Lebanon plays a vital role in the Middle East with its linguistic and cultural diversity, it lies on the crossroad of this region. Consequently, Lebanon believes that fostering the civil aviation is the best means to fulfill this historical role among the states.
 - Lebanon, is one of the first states to contribute in the establishment and development of the civil aviation sector in the Middle East through the facilities provided by Beirut International Airport (BIA), as well as, by its national carrier, the Middle East Airlines (MEA) which was one of the pioneer airlines in the region and the Trans Mediterranean Airlines (TMA), the first cargo air carrier in the region and the third in the world.
 - The Beirut International Airport has the most advanced facilities and installations, thus capable of providing the best services to the airlines and the passengers (new runways and terminals, ground handling companies, catering company, parking spaces, retail sales, fuelling, VIP Terminal, duty free zone, etc.). It can receive six million passengers per year.
 - Lebanon has taken steady steps towards the development and modernization of safety and security regulations in the field of civil aviation to cope with the sweeping changes worldwide and the rapid progress of technology through the Technical Cooperation

¹ English and French versions provided by Lebanon.

Programme of ICAO. Lebanon modernized the administration of the civil aviation sector by promulgating a new law establishing the General Authority of Civil Aviation as a legislative and supervisory body and a private company for the operation of BIA and other civil aviation airports, in order to separate the legislative functions from the operational ones.

- Lebanon has taken the initiative to adopt the “Open Skies” policy and is granting unilaterally freedoms of the air (including the fifth). Lebanon is the only state in the region to adopt this policy, thus enhancing the air transport and increasing the number of operations at the Beirut International Airport, thus Lebanon’s GDP, without affecting the national air carrier, MEA, which was capable of renewing its fleet with the latest aircrafts.
- According to the Open Skies policy, many national chartered air carriers were licensed as well as other foreign companies providing the same services.
- The ICAO Council has since 1962 certified the Lebanese Civil Aviation Safety Centre (CASC) at Beirut International Airport as a regional centre for training on civil aviation safety programmes. At present, the CASC is active in providing the necessary training programs in many field of air transport.
- Lebanon reiterates its support for ICAO efforts and its future programmes, especially the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USAP), the Universal Security Audit Programme (USOAP), together with the other programmes for cooperation and support of developing countries, particularly within the framework of IFFAS, and for the strengthening of the Regional Offices.

3. Lebanon, which attaches great importance to the development of civil aviation and international air transport, and guided by a spirit of cooperation and a desire to work on the Council of ICAO in the interest of all ICAO Contracting States, hopes to be able to count on the support of States participating in the Assembly for its re-election to the Council of ICAO.

— END —