



ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY AZERBAIJAN

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan allow me to extend my sincere greetings to all participants of the 36th Assembly of ICAO and wish you successful collective activity.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to give brief information on the last changes in the civil aviation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Three years later the last Assembly Session, the national normative basis in the sphere of civil aviation on the base of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practice has been significantly expanded in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In June 2005, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the Law on Aviation. The Law created according to the International Civil Aviation Organization recommends contains all the last achievements of the civil aviation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the basis of this Law, there have been conducted the works on formation of statutory acts on provision of aviation security, facilitation, E-ticketing. It is worth to mention about the adoption of “Governmental Program on defense of the civil aviation from the acts of unlawful interference into its activity” by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In December 29, 2006, according to the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, there was formed the State civil aviation administration. The formation of such institute allowed to strengthen the state supervision over the air transport and facilitated for the realization of tasks and obligations directed to provide safe sky for the aviation. The audit in the frames of the ICAO Universal Program on inspection of the control organization on flight safety provision conducted in May 2007 revealed satisfactory condition of the civil aviation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, we have activated the work on modernization of the legislative basis of the Republic in the sphere of supervision functions of the civil aviation administration.

¹ English and Russian versions provided by Azerbaijan

Ladies and gentlemen, there are held arrangements on further development of the civil aviation in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reconstruction of Nakhchivan and Ganja international airports gave one more choice to the population of the Republic and allowed to increase service spectrum provided by the airlines. At present, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan is aimed to increase the quantity of the international airports and renovate the airports of regional destination.

The International Baku airport named in honour of our national leader Mr. Heydar Aliyev is under rapid development. The existing airport equipment is renewed constantly in order to comply with contemporary requirements both in the sphere of flight safety and aviation security. In 2006, the outdated technical systems of baggage and cargo screening were changed into new, more advanced and expensive systems. There have been purchased the modest samples of video control techniques in order to ensure the intensification of the protection around the airport perimeter. There are conducted works in the frames of the State biometrics program. All of abovementioned required us to make additional investments in order to provide higher level of security of passengers by applying modest technologies and equipment. During the current year five-star hotel has been put into operation to improve the quality of passenger service.

Besides the passenger operations, there is paid special attention to the development of the cargo spectrum. The evidence of this is the Cargo terminal which was put into operation in Heydar Aliyev International airport in 2005 and allows serving about 3000 tons of cargo per a month. In May 2007, Air Cargo Summit was successfully held in Baku where the participants from more than 25 countries took part.

The "Azerbaijan Airlines" is the biggest national air carrier of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This airline actively cooperates with the airlines of other countries and also in the frames of International Air Transport Association. In 2005-2006 years, having filled the existing fleet of long-range aircraft with the middle-haul aircraft the "Azerbaijan Airlines" is going to renew its fleet for the domestic and regional flights. Besides this airline, there are two passenger and two cargo airlines in the market of air transportations which fully provide internal and international passenger and cargo operations.

The high quality of the provided services on air transport for reasonable prices is the determining factor which causes increasing of the quantity of the civil aviation activity of Azerbaijan.

The international relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of civil aviation are being developed systematically. Since 2004 up to 2007, there have been signed international air service agreements with five Contracting States, so the total amount of such agreements runs up to 26. During that period, there have been initialed agreements with three States and the total amount of initialed agreements runs up to 24.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is the member of ECAC. Azerbaijan has been admitted to Joint Aviation Administration as an observer. There has been signed Working Agreement with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). There are conducted works on entry into "Eurocontrol" organization. Being the member of the European Civil Aviation Conference, the Republic of Azerbaijan takes active part in ECAC programs having highly appreciated the organization's activity in resolving the matters on flight safety, aviation security, facilitation, passenger rights, economic and ecological aspects of air transport activity. After being joined to ECAC, the Republic of Azerbaijan takes the priority of direct use of European Union laws and regulations in the field of civil aviation.

The Republic of Azerbaijan takes its active stand either in the regional cooperation. This includes the works in aeronautical service organizations RADA and IKSANO, participation in the activity of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the working out and implementation of the projects in the frames of TRACECA program. It is worth to mention either about the membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the International Aviation Committee which allows settling a number of questions in the sphere of air transport activity taking into account the existing practices in the former soviet area.

It is worth especially to mention about the activity of International Civil Aviation Organization. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan fully appreciates the importance of the work which is conducted by ICAO in order to organize arranged and secure development of the international civil aviation. We think that ICAO used to be and at present also remains irreplaceable body which plays the decisive role in problem solving and control organization on following to the rules of flights safety and aviation security. The issue of civil aviation influence on the environment in global scale which is under direct control of ICAO is either no less of current importance. We support Organization's efforts which are directed on reduction of the air transport influence on ecology and understand that ICAO should not be behind the solving of the increasing problems which arise not only as a result of the technological progress but also in consequence of the existing differences between the regions. This is one of the serious tasks which the Organization should fulfill using compromise and good will of the Contracting States.

The air transport liberalization is no less than serious task. The Global symposium on air transport liberalization held by ICAO in Dubai in 2006 showed Contracting States tendency to deregulate the activity of the civil aviation enterprises. However, the disbalance among the Contracting States on the level of civil aviation development leads to the introduction of the restrictions and bans in order to secure the inner market of air transportations. Flights according to the code-sharing are one of the components of the liberalization process on the air transport. Taking this opportunity, in the frames of the Economic commission session, we have suggested the clause on code-sharing as one of the possible alternative on gradual access of greater number of carriers to the market.

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I would like to assure the Assembly in adherence of my country to the principles of ICAO. There are no doubts, that the implementation of these principles with a view of secure, safe and effective air transport system formation is more relevant as ever.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the greatest success in the work of the 36th Assembly of ICAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

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