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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

PLENARY

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

UAE DECISION TO SEEK A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has decided to present its candidature for election to the Council of the International Civil Organization in Category III during the 36th Session of the Assembly to be convened in Montreal, from 18-28th September, 2007. On this occasion, the Government of the UAE is seeking your support of our candidature for election. Our decision is based on a professional platform that promises to bring commitment to support the strategic objectives of ICAO, most notably in the fields of aviation safety, security, and environmental protection.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The unprecedented growth of the aviation sector of the UAE is supported by a continuously developing ultra modern infrastructure of air navigational facilities, hub and spoke airports that serve the vast majority of all world airlines. Our four national air carriers with a combined route system serve many destinations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australia, Europe and the Middle East, making air travel more convenient and affordable to the travelling public. Our aerospace industry contributes significantly to the growth of the global aviation economy through hundreds of aircraft and simulator orders and through professional and technical employment opportunities for nationals from almost every country in the world. Our diversified aerospace industry includes aircraft leasing, professional airport services, global inter-modal cargo operations, and multibillion airport expansion projects.

2. INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT AND AVIATION ECONOMICS

2.1 On the aviation economics level, believing that air travel brings the world closer to peace, prosperity and the promotion of global economic well being, the UAE has supported many global initiatives including the African integration frameworks such as SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS as well as the Yamoussoukro Declaration and Decision, thus further promoting the vital role of civil aviation in bringing the world closer by breaking the artificial barriers that hinder the promotion of global economic well being. Following a visionary national air transport policy, our air carriers, through their extensive network systems, are making air travel within the reach of many more, and further providing better facilitation.

3. AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND ASSISTANCE

3.1 On the safety and security levels, considering the wide variety of new and emerging threats and challenges that continue to threaten global aviation, the UAE has entered in memoranda with regional bodies and professional organizations, where such memoranda aim to work together in an effort to help build safety and security capacity for ICAO member States through training, symposia and coordinated assistance. Furthermore, we have recently entered in high level discussions with ICAO to reach the same objectives. To help achieve this, an ICAO/UAE World Centre for Aviation Development and Excellence is being established in the UAE, where such an institution, together with partners in industry and academia both inside and outside the UAE, is intended to play a leading role in assistance and development activities and projects in and outside the region. Believing in professional, regional and international outreach and partnerships, we have joined several initiatives for the development of aviation safety and security capacity building, both in and outside the region. The UAE fully supports the AFI Plan and is working closely with partners at the African Union, AFCAC and the Flight Safety Foundation and the Industry Safety Strategy Group (ISSG).

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

4.1 The UAE applauds the efforts of ICAO to address the growing environmental concerns. Furthermore, the UAE believes and encourages a collective global approach to address this increasingly complex problem. Dubai and Dubai Aerospace Enterprise will be home for a global conference on the environment in early 2008. ICAO and other regional and aviation bodies will be invited to be partners and hopefully utilize this event as a platform to further discuss solutions to this dilemma that is facing the entire world.

We hope that all the ICAO Contracting States will encourage the UAE to continue its work in support of the mandate of ICAO by electing the UAE to the ICAO Council.