



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

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(Information paper)  
Arabic, English and  
French only<sup>1</sup>

**ASSEMBLY — 36TH 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 36th 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 international conventions drawn by the Organization.
  - Thanks to its geographical and historical context, Lebanon represents an important geographical region of the world i.e. the Middle East, which distinguished itself by the diversity of its civilizations, its languages and its cultures. Lebanon lies on the East–West crossroad of this region. Consequently, Lebanon believes that fostering civil aviation is the best means of fulfilling this historical role among the states.
  - Lebanon is one of the first states to contribute to the establishment and development of the civil aviation sector in the Middle East through the facilities provided by Beirut International Airport which was among the first international airports of the world, 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

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<sup>1</sup> Arabic, English and French versions provided by Lebanon

- The Beirut Rafic International Airport has the most advanced facilities and installations, thus capable of providing the best services to the airlines and passengers (new runways, handling companies, catering company, parking spaces, duty free zone, etc.) It can receive six million passengers per year, and provides air navigation services and flight information services for the regional airspace.
- Lebanon has taken steady steps towards the further 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 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 Beirut airport (BRHIA) and other civil aviation airports, in order to separate the legislative functions from the operational ones, and thus with the possibility of extending the same process to other civil airports.
- Lebanon adopted the “Open Skies” policy without reciprocity and is granting unilaterally freedoms of the air (including the fifth). Lebanon is the first in the region to adopt this policy, thus enhancing the air transport and increasing the number of operations at the Beirut airport (BRHIA), and consequently Lebanon’s GDP grew. This led to a more competitive environment, and better quality of service and licensing of new carriers.
- ICAO 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 modernizing its installations and providing the necessary training programs in many fields of air transport.
- Lebanon reiterates its support for ICAO efforts and its future programmes, especially the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), the activities related to the Protection of the Environment, together with the other programmes for cooperation and support of developing countries, and for the strengthening of the Regional Offices.

3. The candidature of Lebanon is for the election of Part III Member States to be represented on the Council, to ensure balanced geographical representation of the regions, in accordance with the representation principles established by ICAO (article 50-part b-3 of the Chicago Convention). Lebanon’s membership in the ICAO Council will ensure the proper representation of countries located in the Northern and Eastern regions of the Middle East, not otherwise represented in the Council. Those countries have, by formal Declarations, firmly expressed their attachment to the fair geographical representation of their region and their wish for Lebanon to continue representing them by being re-elected on the Council in the present election.

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