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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION
ECONOMIC COMMISSION

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE GENERAL SECTION
AND
AGENDA ITEMS 7, 8, AND 39

The attached material on the General Section of its Report and Agenda Items 7, 8, and 39 is submitted for consideration by the Economic Commission

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY

General

1. The Economic Commission held ... meetings between 24 and 27 September 2007.
2. Mr. R.K. Singh (India) was elected Chairman of the Commission at the 4th Plenary meeting of the Assembly. The Commission, at its 1st meeting, elected Mr. C.D. Martinez (Venezuela) and Ms. C. Kapwepwe (Zambia) as First and Second Vice-Chairmen respectively.
3. Representatives from ... Contracting States and ... Observer Delegations attended one or more meetings of the Commission.
4. The Secretary of the Commission was Mrs. F. Odutola, Director of the Air Transport Bureau. The Deputy Secretary was Mr. J. Begin, Deputy Director of the Air Transport Bureau. The Assistant Secretaries were Mr. O. Magnusson, Mr. O. Nazarov, Ms. G. Resiak, Mr. M. Siciliano, Mr. J. Thaker and Mr. Y.-Z. Wang, with Mr. R. Abeyratne as the Liaison Officer.

Agenda and working arrangements

5. Agenda Items 7, 8, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 referred to the Commission by the Plenary were considered:
 - Item 7: Annual Reports of the Council to the Assembly for 2004, 2005 and 2006
 - Item 8: Programme Budget for 2008, 2009 and 2010
 - Item 39: Facilitation
 - Item 40: Regulation of international air transport services
 - Item 41: Regulation of the provision of airports and air navigation services
 - Item 42: Other air transport issues
 - Item 43: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the air transport field
 - Item 44: Assembly resolutions to be consolidated or to be declared no longer in force
6. The documentation considered by the Commission is listed by agenda item in the Appendix to this Report. The Commission carried out all of its work in full session. The action taken by the Commission in respect of each item is reported on separately in the paragraphs which follow.

Agenda Item 7: Annual Reports of the Council to the Assembly for 2004, 2005 and 2006

7.1 The Economic Commission, at its first meeting, considered the Annual Reports of the Council for 2004, 2005 and 2006 and the Supplementary Report covering the first six months of 2007 which had been referred to the Commission by the Plenary for consideration of those parts falling within its field of competence.

7.2 The Commission noted that the relevant chapters of the Annual Report were Chapters 1 and 2 which provide facts about ICAO and highlights for each year; and Chapter 3 which deals with the principal trends and developments in ICAO in the air transport field. Also of relevance was Chapter 4 which summarizes projects which are given special attention during each year.

7.3 The Commission also noted that ICAO's work on air transport included ongoing work on air transport economics, joint financing, statistics, forecasting and facilitation in addition to work on aviation security, environmental protection and the provision of support to the International Financial Facility for Aviation Safety (IFFAS) which were being considered by the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item 8: Programme Budget for 2008, 2009 and 2010

8.1 The Economic Commission, at its first meeting, considered the Programme Budget for 2008 to 2010 which the Plenary had referred to the Commission for consideration with regard to those parts of interest or concern to it.

8.2 The Commission noted that the Budget was of a results-based nature. Of relevance to the work of the Commission were Strategic Objective B.2 on Enhanced compliance with facilitation Standards concerning border-crossing, including those relating to Machine Readable Travel Documents, D.4 on Liberalization of air transport regulation and efficiency of infrastructure management, and C.1 which requires that the environmental effects of aviation are properly identified, reasonably quantified and that appropriate measures to address these effects are developed.

8.3 With respect to Objective B.2, the Commission noted the growing level of activity as technology is employed to improve the authenticity of and automate the processing of travel documents and the attendant resource burden on the Secretariat in implementing this objective in light of the funding constraints of the regular programme budget.

8.4 The Commission also noted that there were resource constraints associated with the implementation of Objective D.4 and Objective C, *Environmental Protection – Minimize the adverse effect of global civil aviation on the environment* which necessitates the Secretariat's pursuing contributions, including in-kind contributions from Member States as an interim measure to acquire the necessary resources during the upcoming triennium.

Agenda Item 39: Facilitation

39.1 At its first meeting, the Commission considered developments in the Facilitation Programme since the last Assembly on the basis of two reports by the Council: the first on protecting the security and integrity of passports (WP/18) and the second on preventing the introduction of invasive alien species (WP/19). In addition, three papers were presented by States: WPs 145 (Revision 1), 168 and 213.

39.2 For ease of consideration, the working papers were taken up under the following headings: Protecting the security and integrity of passports and other travel documents; Preventing the introduction of invasive alien species; and Facilitation Manual.

Protecting the security and integrity of passports

39.3 The Commission considered three working papers relating to protecting the security and integrity of passports and other travel documents. The Commission heard an oral report describing the work accomplished by the Organization since the last session of the Assembly.

39.4 In WP/18, the Council reported on the progress made in implementation of Resolution A35/18, Appendix D, Section III, *International cooperation in protecting the security and integrity of passports*; as described in paragraphs 39.5 to 39.10.

39.5 Amendment 19 to Annex 9 adopted in March 2005, includes, *inter alia*, Standards that require Contracting States to issue only machine readable passports (MRPs) by 1 April 2010.

39.6 In September 2006, the sixth edition of Doc 9303, Part 1 – *Machine Readable Passports* was published in which Volume 2 specifies ePassport standards to be used worldwide.

39.7 As one of the four pillars specified for the issuance of ePassports, a specially tailored public key infrastructure (PKI) project has been specified in order to protect the signed data contained therein from counterfeiting or unauthorized alteration. In May 2005, the Council confirmed the development of a public key directory (PKD) which would distribute the public keys of the ePassports. A Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the PKD was approved by the Council and became effective in March 2007. The secure PKD Office was opened at ICAO Headquarters in March 2007.

39.8 To assist States which have not yet begun issuing MRPs, ICAO set up a project on Universal Implementation of Machine Readable Travel Documents (UIMRTD), with the objective of universal implementation ahead of the April 2010 deadline. In 2005 and 2006, assistance was provided to 12 States, and ten missions per year are planned for the 2008-2010 triennium.

39.9 As part of UIMRTD, the Secretariat has also organized several educational and promotional activities, including two worldwide MRTD/Biometrics Symposia with exhibitions. A third Symposium will be held on 1-3 of October 2007. ICAO has also co-organized several regional conferences, seminars and workshops in this field during the last three years.

39.10 Finally, the Secretariat has established a dedicated web site and publishes a specialized magazine twice a year to promote and educate States on machine readable travel documents issues.

39.11 The Commission invited the Council and member States to continue their work in protecting the security and integrity of passports as a matter of high priority.

39.12 WP/213, presented by Colombia, recognized that there is a need to develop a set of standardized training materials for the personnel in charge of machine readable travel documents (MRTD) readers, in view of the provisions established by ICAO regarding issuing machine readable passports from 1 April 2010 by all Contracting States.

39.13 In order to implement this project, issuance of training packages in this field using the standardized ICAO TRAINAIR methodology, was proposed.

39.14 The Commission supported the proposal and requested the Council to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a plan for developing training packages on MRTD-related issues according to TRAINAIR methodology.

39.15 WP/168 (Information Paper), presented by China, reported on the outcome and experience of China in issuing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) and the prospects of ePassports in China.

Preventing the introduction of invasive alien species

39.16 In WP/19, the Council reported on the progress made in implementation of Resolution A35-19, *Preventing the introduction of invasive alien species*.

39.17 The Commission heard an oral report, presented by the Secretariat, on recent progress made by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) in drafting guidance material on preventing the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), based on the “best practices” information received from States in response to a State letter that ICAO had disseminated in January 2005.

39.18 The Commission agreed to submit for adoption to the Plenary, Resolution 39/1, to supersede Resolution A35-19.

Resolution 39/1: Preventing the introduction of invasive alien species

Whereas the global community has increasingly recognized the threat to biological diversity posed by invasive alien species;

Whereas international transportation, including civil air transportation, represents a potential pathway for the introduction of invasive alien species; and

Whereas the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Invasive Species Programme and other intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations are currently working on

means to effectively assess and manage alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and native species;

The Assembly:

1. *Urges* all Contracting States to support one another's efforts to reduce the risk of introducing, through civil air transportation, potentially invasive alien species to areas outside their natural range;
2. *Requests* the ICAO Council to continue working with the appropriate organizations in this regard; and
3. *Declares* that this resolution supersedes Resolution A35-19.

Facilitation Manual

39.19 The Commission considered WP/145, Revision 1, presented by the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), which reported on a new joint working modality used within LACAC to coordinate Facilitation and Security (FAL/AVSEC) matters. The paper requested the publication of a Facilitation handbook or manual which could serve as an essential tool for application in each area related to air transport facilitation.

39.20 The Commission was informed that a Facilitation manual is being developed and is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.
