



## **ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

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

#### **CANDIDATURE OF NAMIBIA**

(Presented by Namibia)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Namibia has the pleasure of announcing to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) its candidature for election, under Part III, geographic representation, to serve as a member of the ICAO – Council for the triennium 2007 to 2010.

#### **2. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

2.1 Namibia's candidature is in accordance with Article 9.5 of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology that requires the common management of the SADC Permanent Mission at ICAO. The SADC Member States are the Republics of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2.2 Namibia's candidature is also supported and fully endorsed, at the regional front, by the African Union (AU) and its technical arm the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).

#### **3. COMMITMENT TO ADVANCE THE IDEALS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION**

3.1 Namibia has, since its Founding Father and former President, His Excellency President Dr. Sam Nujoma, signed on 29 March 1991 the Chicago Convention of 1944, ratified and acceded to nineteen (19) International Air Law Instruments. The accession to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for Detection is also at an advanced stage. A number of bilateral air service agreements have been negotiated and concluded to date with Contracting States within the region, intra-regionally and internationally and are they are in the process of being registered with AFCAC and ICAO.

3.2 The national air carrier (Air Namibia) as well as private operators are fully reaping in today's ever changing and dynamic environment the fruits and benefits emanating from these agreements. Air Namibia would also very soon undergo the IOSA certification process. Meanwhile, the national carrier has completed 70% of the IATA e-ticketing system well ahead of the deadline of 2008.

3.3 Namibia's commitment to aviation safety nationally and within the region is also demonstrated by its installation of receivers and transmitters to enhance communication between Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers (ATC), the installation of VSAT Generation I and soon VSAT II. A new Area Control Centre (ACC) is also one of the latest developments at Eros Airport all aimed at securing the integrity of aviation operations within and above our territory.

3.4 The Namibian Airports Company (NAC), an autonomous entity was established on 1998 and has greatly improved efficiency of airport operations and enjoy minimum returns on its investments. An independent Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation Unit that clearly separates the regulatory functions of the Directorate Civil Aviation from accident investigations have also been established.

3.5 Namibia is committed to establish the envisaged Namibian Civil Aviation Authority by the end of 2008, which again demonstrates Namibia's commitment to the orderly development of aviation consistent with the ideals and aspirations of ICAO.

3.6 Namibia is honoured to host the African Civil Aviation Agency (AFRO – CAA) which was recently inaugurated in Windhoek on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The AFRO – CAA's mandate is the harmonization of primary aviation and legislation amongst participating States. Namibia is also a signatory to the Yamoussoukro Declaration, an initiative aimed at promoting open skies intra-Africa.

3.7 Namibia is currently in the process of developing specifications for the acquisition of air traffic control radars and ADS-B with the assistance of technical experts from ICAO in order to improve safety over its air space. Other infrastructural developments are the expansion of the runway and upgrading of the Walvis Bay Airport to ICAO Category 4F. Structural improvements of the main terminal building at Hosea International Airport has recently been completed and will soon be complemented by the complete rehabilitation of the runway and the construction of a second runway.

3.8 A Civil Aviation Bill is currently underway and will serve as a vehicle for the establishment of the envisaged Namibian Civil Aviation Authority. The Director Civil Aviation has signed the ICAO Consent Release Form on the Initial Audit Cycle because the Government is convinced that transparency is important.