



A36-WP/352
EX/115
26/9/07

ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 23

The attached material on Agenda Item 23 is submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item 23: Increasing the effectiveness of ICAO

23.1 At its sixth and seventh meetings, the Executive Committee considered eight working papers (A36-WPs/40, 60, 284, 135, 154, 241, 253 and 258) dealing with increasing the effectiveness of ICAO.

23.2 A36-WP/40, presented by the Council, proposed amending Rules 15 a), 15 d), 33, 66 and, by implication, Rules 20 and 47 of the *Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization* (Doc 7600/5) in order to formalize the Assembly practice, since its 32nd Session, of suspending, at the outset of each ordinary Session, those Rules, in whole or in part. Such suspension has enabled the Assembly to streamline its working methods and procedures in accordance with Resolutions A31-2 and A32-1, so as to: deal with initial items such as the election of Assembly Officers and the adoption of the Agenda in order to avoid non-essential duplication of presentation and consideration of the same documents in different bodies; waive the 24-hour requirement between the presentation and circulation of a report of a Commission or Committee and its discussion in Plenary; and forego minutes of Commissions. The Chairman noted the proposed amendments to be mere ratifications of what ICAO has been doing in practice. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Plenary that the *Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly* be amended in accordance with the proposals set out in the Appendix to A36-WP/40.

23.3 The Secretary General introduced A36-WP/60 which contained the report of the Council of ICAO on the implementation of Assembly Resolutions A31-2, A32-1 and A33-3 on increasing the effectiveness of the Organization. The 35th Session of the Assembly had considered a report by the Council on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and had taken a decision in relation to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. The decision had requested the Council to continue on a permanent basis to work on the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of ICAO, and had focused on the formulation of genuinely strategic objectives for the Organization in the 2005-2007 triennium; business planning and the integration of the Regional Offices with Headquarters; and on the improvements in the working methods and increased use of the ICAO-NET. The paper reported on progress made in implementing the decision of the 35th Session of the Assembly and Council action thereon, as well as on other measures taken since the 35th Session of the Assembly as part of the ongoing process to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. The Committee approved and welcomed the report.

23.4 A36-WP/284, Revision No. 1, presented by Canada on behalf of 22 States, contained a proposal for a study of policy and programme with respect to examining the international governance of civil aviation. It stated that the current governance structures had served international civil aviation for over sixty years and should be examined to identify those areas which continued to be fit for the purpose they had been agreed in 1944, and those which might need modernization. A draft resolution to that effect for adoption by the Assembly was appended to the paper. The Committee noted the contents of the paper. However, most delegations felt it would be premature to change the Chicago Convention that had served the international aviation community so well. Resolution A4-3 was flexible enough to allow a strategic review and it was proposed to refer this matter to the Council for further study.

23.5 A36-WP/135, Revision No. 1, presented by Colombia proposed that ICAO expand the existing "ICAO-NET" secure website to enable Contracting States to post, under their responsibility,

current AIP documents for easy accessibility and reference. The value of the proposal in making AIP information easily and globally available was recognized and strongly supported. However, concerns were raised about resource implications and its utility to States with limited internet access. Also, the suitability of the site for posting operational information should be considered. The meeting agreed to direct the Council to study the proposal, taking into account the need to assist some States as well as resource constraints.

23.6 In A36-WP/154, dealing with the restructuring and reorganization of the Secretariat, 12 member States of the Regional Aviation Safety Oversight System (RASOS) proposed a process of decentralization to empower the ICAO Regional Offices to achieve certain Strategic Objectives of the Business Plan. It was noted that the strengthening of and support to the Regional Offices was ongoing work and that the Secretary General had been taking steps in further enhancing their functionality. It was also noted that the Council had established a Working Group for the purpose of reviewing the Regional Offices, their present location, terms of reference, and their effectiveness and efficiency. The Committee noted the contents of the paper.

23.7 A36-WP/241, presented by the member States of the ABIS Group (Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland and Switzerland), reviewed the experience of the existing rotation groups and encouraged States seeking membership on the Council of ICAO to create new or join the existing rotation groups. The Committee noted and agreed with the contents of the paper.

23.8 A36-WP/253, presented by Cameroon on behalf of 53 African States, dealt with the major role played by ICAO Regional Offices in providing assistance to States in the AFI Region and invited the Assembly to support those offices. The Committee noted the paper and highlighted the importance of the allocation of appropriate resources to the Regional Offices located in Africa, as well as in other regions of the world. It was recalled that in earlier discussions, the issue of greater involvement by the ICAO Headquarters' staff in regional implementation activities had been considered as a way of improving functional integration, as well as enhancing the capacity of the Regional Offices to address local issues.

23.9 A36-WP/258, presented by the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) suggested increasing the ICAO Council membership from 36 to 39 seats which could help increase the representation of the Arab States in view of the considerable growth of Arab civil aviation. The Committee noted the importance of a wider participation of Contracting States in all the activities of the Organization, especially those that are not members of the Council, and agreed to refer this matter to the Council for review and action as appropriate.

23.10 Having considered A36-WPs/40, 60, 284, 135, 154, 241, 253 and 258, the Committee proposed that the Assembly adopt the following recommendation in relation to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization.

The Assembly:

1. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made and results achieved in the implementation of Assembly Resolutions A31-2, A32-1 and A33-3 and the decision of the 35th Session of the Assembly on increasing the effectiveness of ICAO;
2. *Requests* the Council to continue, as part of the ongoing process to work on the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of ICAO, and to present a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
3. *Approves* the amendments of certain rules of the *Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly* (Doc 7600/5) as proposed in A36-WP/40;
4. *Requests* the Council to study the proposal in A36-WP/284, Revision No. 1, and take any action it deems necessary;
5. *Requests* the Council to study the matter of expanding the use of the ICAO-NET to include more ICAO publications and possibly AIPs in electronic form in the context of the 2008-2010 Budget;
6. *Notes* A36-WPs/154 and 253 and recognizes that the Regional Offices should have adequate means and resources to effectively achieve the Strategic Objectives;
7. *Encourages* States seeking membership on the ICAO Council to create new or join the existing rotation groups;
8. *Requests* the Council to review ways and means to widen participation of Contracting States in various activities of the Organization including the Governing Bodies to ensure efficiency; and
9. *Instructs* the Secretary General to ensure that, during the development, consultation and adoption process of SARPs, including “fast-track” adoption, all ICAO languages are used as appropriate.

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