



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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English only¹

ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 23: Increasing the effectiveness of ICAO

INCREASING ICAO COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TO A MINIMUM OF 39 SEATS

(Presented by the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC)²)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper suggests increasing the ICAO Council Membership from 36 to 39 seats. This would help in increasing the representation of the Arab Group in light of considerable growth of Arab civil aviation, which is estimated at more than 9% in terms of traffic. It is therefore necessary to have a higher representation for the Arab region, particularly the Gulf area, to reflect the increased interest in civil aviation, the growth of air traffic and the effective contribution in the development of the sector.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- Approve an increase in the membership of the ICAO Council from 36 to a minimum of 39 seats; and
- Allocate the additional seats to geographical regions that attach a greater importance to civil aviation and where air transport activity is increasingly growing, including the Arab region and particularly the Gulf area.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	Development of the aviation sector in the Arab region, particularly the Gulf area, as an emerging force in the sector and in light of the major investments in large airports and modern fleets.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	N/A
<i>References:</i>	

¹ Arabic version provided by ACAC.

² Presented by 15 Contracting States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with the provisions of the Convention regarding the election of the ICAO Council, particularly Article 50 thereof which stipulates that: in electing the members of the Council, the Assembly shall give a good representation to:

- a) Part I: the States of chief importance in air transport;
- b) Part II: the States not otherwise included which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation; and
- c) Part III: the States not otherwise included whose designation will ensure that all the major geographic areas of the world are represented on the Council.

2. CURRENT SITUATION:

2.1 At the outset, it should be recalled that the last increase in the Council membership was based on a proposal made by 41 African states that considered the representation of the African continent in the Council was not commensurate with the large number of countries in the continent nor with the increasing importance of civil aviation and air navigation services. Air transport activities have continuously expanded in this vast area. Therefore, the increase from 33 to 36 members was endorsed by a Resolution from the 28th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly (October 1990). This amendment came into force on 28 November 2002 after reaching the 108 minimum number of ratifications.

2.2 At present, the ICAO Council is composed of 36 States elected by the Assembly every three years, and the current membership will end during the 36th Assembly held from 18 to 28 September 2007.

2.3 The ICAO Council should promote and encourage the principle of rotation among Contracting States from the various regions of the world. This will produce a wider representation through better coordination and agreement among the various States, groupings and international and continental organizations.

2.4 It should also be recalled that the States of chief importance in air transport or those which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation must have the technical and operational capabilities in this field, as well as the competent and qualified human resources to run this sector and provide the necessary important air navigation infrastructure. There is also a need to encourage operators and air transport organizations in their progressive efforts.

3. RATIONALE FOR INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Arab civil aviation has continuously expanded in the various branches of this sector and there has been a great increase in air transport activity in the Arab region, particularly in the Gulf States, as everyone will recognize. Arab States currently play an important role in the major international fora as an emerging force in the field of air transport. They are currently building major airport infrastructures, purchasing modern aircraft fleets and providing advanced navigation facilities for the future.

3.2 In addition to these major achievements, huge investments are being made in the different components of the civil aviation industry. Billions of dollars are being spent to bring about a quantum leap in the aviation industry and to keep pace with the rapid growth of air traffic in the Arab area, particularly in the Gulf countries. This growth is currently surpassing that of many regions of the world, including some of the developed ones. The Arab Group has accepted the rotation system based on consultations and coordination with all other regional grouping and organisations. It was content with its four seats on the ICAO Council, therefore abiding by the agreed upon commitment with the other bodies. However, today's reality clearly shows that there is a major move to promote civil aviation in the Arab States, and there is no doubt that these efforts made in the Arab region will help in the development of international civil aviation and air transport. These major contributions are reflected in the purchase of modern aircraft as well as the development of large airports and highly advanced navigation equipment. These developments highlight the new position of the Arab Group and its pioneering role, particularly in the Gulf area, in the development of international civil aviation.

3.3 In recognition of these major achievements and the increasing importance of civil aviation in the Arab region, particularly in the Gulf area, the whole region should be given a higher weight of participation in supervisory bodies in the field of international civil aviation, by increasing the number of seats on the ICAO Council. This will be beneficial to the regions that have greatly contributed to the development of international civil aviation, air transport and navigation services. The Arab region, and particularly the Gulf area, has done just that. On the other hand, it is to be noted that many regions of the world are over- represented compared to the 22 Arab States, such as the Northern European States as well as Central and Latin America, where their representation ratio is one seat for every 3 to 4 members of their respective groups.

4. ACTION

4.1 In light of the above, ACAC invites the Assembly to:

- a) Approve an increase in the membership of the ICAO Council from 36 to a minimum of 39 seats; and
- b) Allocate the additional seats to geographical regions that attach a greater importance to civil aviation and where air transport activity is increasingly growing, including the Arab region and particularly the Gulf area.

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