



A36-WP/301
LE/15
22/9/07

ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION
LEGAL COMMISSION

DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 48

The attached material on Agenda Item 48 is submitted for consideration by the Legal Commission.

Agenda Item 48: Assembly resolutions to be consolidated or to be declared no longer in force

48.1 The Legal Commission considered this Item on the basis of A36-WP/6 and A36-WP/28. The Secretary reminded the Commission that the Plenary, in taking action on Agenda Item 9: Assembly resolutions to be consolidated or to be declared no longer in force and their reference to the Executive Committee and Commissions, referred Appendix D of A36-WP/28 to the Legal Commission, to be considered under Agenda Item 48. The objective of A36-WP/28 was to declare as no longer in force certain Assembly resolutions no longer valid. In Appendix D, it was recommended that none of the existing Resolutions in Part V – Legal Matters, of Document 9848 (Assembly Resolutions in Force) be declared no longer in force. An updated consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field was presented separately in A36-WP/6. In accordance with principles applied in the past by the Assembly, the consolidation was essentially of an editorial nature and did not involve a changing of the policies in the resolutions. It was recommended that three resolutions in Part V should maintain their separate identities and should not be included in the proposed Consolidated Statement, namely: Resolution A32-19: Charter on the Rights and Obligations of States Relating to GNSS Services; Resolution A32-20: Development and elaboration of an appropriate long-term framework to govern the implementation of GNSS; and Resolution A33-20: Coordinated approach in providing assistance in the field of aviation war risk insurance.

48.2 One delegation suggested that for practical reasons and for convenience of reference, the preamble of the Consolidated Statement should contain a cross-reference to these three resolutions which were not included. The Chairperson explained that the successor document to Document 9848 would have a separate Part dealing only with Legal Matters, and would contain the Consolidated Statement plus the resolutions in the legal field not incorporated in the Consolidated Statement. She therefore suggested that it was not necessary to include a reference to these resolutions in the Consolidated Statement.

48.3 The Commission consequently **agreed** that, as regards Appendix D of A36-WP/28, there were no resolutions in the legal field to be declared no longer in force. The Commission then **decided** to recommend to the Plenary the adoption of the proposed Resolution hereunder:

Resolution 48/xx: Consolidated Statement of Continuing ICAO Policies in the Legal Field

Whereas it is considered desirable to consolidate Assembly resolutions on the Organization's policies in the legal field in order to facilitate their implementation and practical application by making their texts more readily available, understandable and logically organized;

The Assembly:

1. *Resolves* that the Appendices attached to this resolution constitute the consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field, up to date as these policies exist at the close of the 36th Session of the Assembly;

2. *Resolves* to continue to adopt at each ordinary session a consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies in the legal field; and

3. *Declares* that this resolution supersedes Resolutions A7-6, A10-40, A16-36, A27-3, A31-15, A33-4 and A35-3.

APPENDIX A

General Policy

Whereas international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world, yet its abuse can become a threat to the general security;

Whereas it is desirable to avoid friction and to promote that cooperation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends;

The Assembly:

Reaffirms the important role of law in the avoidance and resolution of conflicts and disputes among the nations and peoples of the world and, in particular, in the achievement by the Organization of its aims and objectives.

APPENDIX B

Procedure for approval of draft conventions on international air law

The Assembly resolves:

That the following constitutes the procedure for the approval of draft conventions:

1. Any draft convention which the Legal Committee considers as ready for presentation to the States as a final draft shall be transmitted to the Council, together with a report thereon.

2. The Council may take such action as it deems fit, including the circulation of the draft to the Contracting States and to such other States and international organizations as it may determine.

3. In circulating the draft convention, the Council may add comments and afford States and organizations an opportunity to submit comments to the Organization within a period of not less than four months.

4. Such draft convention shall be considered, with a view to its approval, by a conference which may be convened in conjunction with a session of the Assembly. The opening date of the conference shall be not less than six months after the date of transmission of the draft as provided in paragraphs 2

and 3 above. The Council may invite to such a conference any non-Contracting State whose participation it considers desirable, and shall decide whether such participation carries the right to vote. The Council may also invite international organizations to be represented at the conference by observers.

APPENDIX C

Ratification of ICAO international instruments

The Assembly:

Recalling its Resolution A31-15, Appendix C relating to the ratification of the Protocols of Amendment to the Chicago Convention and of the private air law and other instruments which have been developed and adopted under the auspices of the Organization;

Noting with concern the continuing slow progress of ratification of the aforementioned Protocols of Amendment, including in particular those introducing Articles 3 *bis* and 83 *bis* to the Chicago Convention, and the final paragraphs (relating to the Arabic and Chinese texts);

Recognizing the importance of these amendments to international civil aviation, in particular to the viability of the Chicago Convention, and the consequent urgent need to accelerate the entry into force of these amendments not yet in force;

Recognizing the need to accelerate the ratification and entry into force of air law instruments developed and adopted under the auspices of the Organization;

Conscious of the fact that only a universal participation in these Protocols of Amendment and other instruments would secure and enhance the benefits of unification of the international rules which they embody;

Urges all Contracting States which so far have not done so to ratify those Amendments to the Chicago Convention which are not yet in force [i.e. those introducing paragraphs relating to the Arabic and Chinese texts] as soon as possible;

Urges all Contracting States which have not yet done so to ratify the Protocols introducing Articles 3 *bis* and 83 *bis* and amending Articles 50(a) (1990) and 56 (1989) of the Chicago Convention;

Urges all Contracting States which so far have not done so to ratify the other international air law instruments, in particular the Montreal Convention of 1999 and the Cape Town instruments of 2001, as soon as possible;

Urges States which have ratified the instruments in question to provide to the Secretary General copies of the text and documents they have used in the process of ratification and implementation of such instruments and which may serve as an example assisting other States in the same process; and

Directs the Secretary General to take all practical measures within the Organization's means in cooperation with States to provide assistance, if requested, to States encountering difficulties in the process of ratification and implementation of the air law instruments, including the organization of and the participation in workshops or seminars to further the process of ratification of the international air law instruments.

APPENDIX D

The teaching of air law

The Assembly, considering the undoubted importance for the Organization and the States of the specialized teaching of air law and the desirability of fostering knowledge of this important subject,

Invites the Council to take all possible action to promote the teaching of air law in those States where it is not yet available;

Urges the States to adopt appropriate measures which would further the achievement of the above objective; and

Calls upon Contracting States and interested parties to contribute to the Assad Kotaite Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund.

APPENDIX E

Adoption of national legislation on certain offences committed on board civil aircraft (unruly/disruptive passengers)

The Assembly:

Recognizing that, under the Preamble and Article 44 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, one of the aims and objectives of the Organization is to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport;

Noting the increase of the number and gravity of reported incidents involving unruly or disruptive passengers on board civil aircraft;

Considering the implications of these incidents for the safety of the aircraft and the passengers and crew on board these aircraft;

Mindful of the fact that the existing international law as well as national law and regulations in many States are not fully adequate to deal effectively with this problem;

Recognizing the special environment of aircraft in flight and inherent risks connected therewith, as well as the need to adopt adequate measures of national law for the purpose of enabling States to prosecute criminal acts and offences constituting unruly or disruptive behaviour on board aircraft;

Encouraging the adoption of national legal rules enabling States to exercise jurisdiction in appropriate cases to prosecute criminal acts and offences constituting unruly or disruptive behaviour on board aircraft registered in other States;

Therefore:

Urges all Contracting States to enact as soon as possible national law and regulations to deal effectively with the problem of unruly or disruptive passengers, incorporating so far as practical the provisions set out below; and

Calls on all Contracting States to submit to their competent authorities for consideration of prosecution all persons whom they have a reasonable ground to consider as having committed any of the offences set out in the national laws and regulations so enacted, and for which they have jurisdiction in accordance with these laws and regulations.

Model Legislation on Certain Offences Committed on Board Civil Aircraft

Section 1: Assault and Other Acts of Interference against a Crew Member on Board a Civil Aircraft

Any person who commits on board a civil aircraft any of the following acts thereby commits an offence:

- 1) assault, intimidation or threat, whether physical or verbal, against a crew member if such act interferes with the performance of the duties of the crew member or lessens the ability of the crew member to perform those duties;
- 2) refusal to follow a lawful instruction given by the aircraft commander, or on behalf of the aircraft commander by a crew member, for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the aircraft or of any person or property on board or for the purpose of maintaining good order and discipline on board.

Section 2: Assault and Other Acts Endangering Safety or Jeopardizing Good Order and Discipline on Board a Civil Aircraft

- 1) Any person who commits on board a civil aircraft an act of physical violence against a person or of sexual assault or child molestation thereby commits an offence.
- 2) Any person who commits on board a civil aircraft any of the following acts thereby commits an offence if such act is likely to endanger the safety of the aircraft or of any person on board or if such act jeopardizes the good order and discipline on board the aircraft:

- a) assault, intimidation or threat, whether physical or verbal, against another person;
- b) intentionally causing damage to, or destruction of, property;
- c) consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs resulting in intoxication.

Section 3: Other Offences Committed on Board a Civil Aircraft

Any person who commits on board a civil aircraft any of the following acts thereby commits an offence:

- 1) smoking in a lavatory, or smoking elsewhere in a manner likely to endanger the safety of the aircraft;
- 2) tampering with a smoke detector or any other safety-related device on board the aircraft;
- 3) operating a portable electronic device when such act is prohibited.

Section 4: Jurisdiction

- 1. The jurisdiction of (*Name of State*) shall extend to any offence under Sections 1, 2, or 3 of this Act if the act constituting the offence took place on board:
 - 1) any civil aircraft registered in (*Name of State*); or
 - 2) any civil aircraft leased with or without crew to an operator whose principal place of business is in (*Name of State*) or, if the operator does not have a principal place of business, whose permanent residence is in (*Name of State*); or
 - 3) any civil aircraft on or over the territory of (*Name of State*); or
 - 4) any other civil aircraft in flight outside (*Name of State*), if
 - a) the next landing of the aircraft is in (*Name of State*); and
 - b) the aircraft commander has delivered the suspected offender to the competent authorities of (*Name of State*), with the request that the authorities prosecute the suspected offender and with the affirmation that no similar request has been or will be made by the commander or the operator to any other State.
- 2. The term “in flight” as used in this section means the period from the moment when power is applied for the purpose of takeoff until the moment when the landing run ends.

APPENDIX F

**A Practical Way Forward on Legal and Institutional Aspects of Communications,
Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems**

Whereas the global implementation of Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems, which, *inter alia*, is intended to provide safety-critical services for aircraft navigation, has made substantial progress since its inception at the 10th Air Navigation Conference in 1991 and received enthusiastic endorsement at the 11th Air Navigation Conference in 2003;

Whereas the existing legal framework for CNS/ATM systems, namely the Chicago Convention, its Annexes, Assembly Resolutions (especially including the Charter of GNSS Rights and Obligations), associated ICAO guidance (especially including the Statement of ICAO Policy on CNS/ATM Systems Implementation and Operation), regional navigation plans, and exchanges of letters between ICAO and the States operating satellite navigation constellations has enabled the technical implementation achieved thus far;

Whereas ICAO has devoted substantial resources to the study of the legal and institutional aspects of CNS/ATM systems in the ICAO Assembly, the Council, the Legal Committee, and a Panel of Legal and Technical Experts and a Study Group, building a detailed record and developing an understanding of the issues, challenges, and concerns facing the global community; and

Whereas there is a need to also consider regional initiatives to develop measures addressing any legal or institutional issues that could inhibit the implementation of CNS/ATM in the region, while ensuring that such mechanisms will be consistent with the Chicago Convention;

The Assembly:

1. *Recognizes* the importance of Item No. 3 of the General Work Programme of the Legal Committee “Consideration, with regard to CNS/ATM systems including global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and the regional multinational organisms, of the establishment of a legal framework”, and resolutions or decisions by the Assembly and the Council relating to it;

2. *Reaffirms* that there is no need to amend the Chicago Convention for the implementation of CNS/ATM systems;

3. *Invites* Contracting States to also consider using regional organizations to develop mechanisms necessary to address any legal or institutional issues that could inhibit the implementation of CNS/ATM in the region, while ensuring that such mechanisms will be consistent with the Chicago Convention, and public international law;

4. *Encourages* the facilitation of technical assistance in implementation of CNS/ATM systems by ICAO, regional organizations and industry;

5. *Invites* Contracting States, other multilateral agencies and private financiers to consider development of additional sources of funding for assistance to States and regional groups in implementation of CNS/ATM;

6. *Directs* the Secretary General to monitor and, where appropriate, assist in the development of contractual frameworks to which parties may accede, *inter alia*, on the basis of the structure and model proposed by the Members of the European Civil Aviation Conference and the other regional civil aviation commissions, and on international law;

7. *Invites* the Contracting States to transmit regional initiatives to the Council; and

8. *Directs* the Council to register such regional initiatives, to consider their value and to make them public as soon as possible (in accordance with Articles 54, 55 and 83 of the Chicago Convention).