



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

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(English and Spanish Only)

**ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item 26: Other high-level policy issues to be considered by the Executive Committee**

**INTERNATIONAL AIR CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES DAY**

(Presented by the Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation International (ACVFFI))

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Passengers play a crucial role in air transport but also in safety matters, essential for keep flying, for their own safety and even for the aircraft. Accident investigations have indicated that the performance and attitude of the passengers were a significant factor for the evacuation, when it occurred, of the aircraft and the possibility of survival.

For the first time in the history of world commercial aviation of the establishing a day dedicated to Victims of Air Accidents with annual celebration entitled: International Day of Victims of Air Crash and their Families, would contribute to greater awareness by States Members and International Organizations on the consequences for passengers who suffer an air accident, a situation in which no one who gets on a plane is exempt from suffering.

In addition, the promotion of that annual international day would allow the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to promote the norms and practices recommended in Doc 9998, *Policy on Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families*, as well as Document 9973, *Manual on Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families*. The celebration of an International Day that highlights and remembers the deceased victims, the diverse and fundamental work of safety that the Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation International (ACVFFI) performs as catharsis and path of choice for people who may suffer an aerial tragedy would be promoted.

The Assembly is invited to:

- a) request the Council to establish an International Day of Air Crash Victims, in order to increase knowledge about the consequences on people who suffer an air accident and to attract them to another more hopeful path that allows them to continue living contributing to the common good; and
- b) take note of the proposed date of 20 February as International Day of the Air Crash Victims and make the necessary procedures to include it in the official calendar, in addition to communicating it to all the Agents involved in world commercial aviation.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives in matters of continuous improvement of safety and training and capacity development in global civil aviation.
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<sup>1</sup> English and Spanish versions provided by the Air Crash Victims Families' Federation International.

<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not Applicable
<i>References:</i>	<i>Annex 6, Operation of Aircraft - International Commercial Air Transport – Aeroplanes Safety instruction manual for passengers Doc 10062, Manual on the Investigation of Cabin Safety Aspects in Accidents and Incidents Doc 10075, Assembly Resolutions in Force Doc 9998, Policy on Assistance of Air Accident Victims and their Families Doc 9973, Manual on Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families</i>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Civil Aviation is an industry in which the safety, physical safety, and lives of thousands of people depend on aeronautical personnel working in a wide variety of occupations, including cabin crew in charge of safety tasks in the aircraft.

1.2 The cabin crew members are qualified professionals who play their role in the protection and safety of the passenger cabin, and, in many cases, it is the passengers themselves, because of their own professional occupations, which in some serious incidents of aviation have contributed their knowledge for the good end of the flight or even medical care to any of the people on board the aircraft.

1.3 Until now, in international civil aviation, it had never been contemplated or probably proposed the establishment of International Day of Air Crash Victims, perhaps because there was also no organization that would bring together all the victims who wanted to work for the common good at the international level, as is the current case of ACVFFI.

## 2. THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF PASSENGERS IN GLOBAL AIR TRANSPORT

2.1 According to the dutch organization, specializing in aviation safety information, Aviation Safety Network (ASN), presented the statistics of air accidents in 2018, a total of 15 fatal accidents of passenger aircrafts in which 556 people died. Despite which, 2018 was one of the safest years in the history of commercial aviation, although it was, however, worse than the average of the last five years

2.2 They set the year 2017 as the safest in the history of aviation with 10 accidents and 44 lost lives. ASN notes that in the last five years “it is clear that accidents, due to loss of control, are a major air safety problem since in its report it determines that it was responsible for at least 10 of the 25 most serious accidents. In most of these accidents, it was practically impossible that there were survivors.”

2.3 The ASN Database contains details of more than 8,700 air accidents worldwide and has the reliability of its statistics.

2.4 It is essential promoting the importance and role of safety in commercial aviation passengers, as well as to promote it through an International Day dedicated to Victims of Air Accidents, the memory of people killed in an air accident anywhere in the world.

2.5 Aviation is a constantly evolving industry and with it, the responsibilities of physical safety and safety of passengers should also evolve. This is the main purpose of aviation, which is why ACVFFI encourages to the States, International Organizations, Agents involved, in short, the necessary information so that they can take into consideration the proposal contained in this Paper.

2.6 The proposed date of 20 February is based on the fact that that day does not celebrate any other international day worldwide being one of the few dates that are free to commemorate it.

2.7 On the other hand, in several months but on the 20th there have been significant air accidents, which could serve as a basis for your choice.

2.8 Commercial aviation is largely due to the passengers it carries, which are the essential basis of its productive business and the celebration of the ICAO 75th Anniversary this year would be the

special occasion to take into account this proposal made by ACVFFI and will carry out as a way of giving relevance also to the weakest part of aviation: the victims of air accidents.

### 3. CONCLUSION

3.1 ACVFFI wish the consideration of air accidents victims and their families, to any user of the plane that may suffer the consequences of an air accident, should be remembered on an international annual day, the date of February 20 is proposed, that allows to show to States, International Organizations, Agents Involved in air transport, etc., that they should not forget that from the tragedies knowledge is extracted for the safety of all people: professionals and passengers.

3.2 This Initiative is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: No. 5 on gender equality, No. 8 on decent work and economic growth and No. 17 on building partnerships to achieve the objectives.

3.3 As an International Organization representing aviation, it is for ICAO to assume this mandate and formalize the recognition of an *International Day Of Air Crash Victims*, A celebration - commemoration worldwide, taking into account the proposed date of 20 February.

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