



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13: Facilitation Programmes

**INCLUDE IN THE ICAO SECRETARIAT GENERAL A SECTION DEDICATED TO THE ICAO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES ASSISTANCE POLICY**

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families has not been considered enough until very recently in ICAO history. It is a pending issue in the structure of the Secretariat. Neither accident investigation or facilitation, has among their competencies the comprehensive treatment of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

In the spirit of the ICAO "No Country Left Behind" initiative, victim assistance cannot be left behind and should find a section/unit within the Secretariat, with specific personnel for promoting and managing all ICAO victim assistance regulations. The new Secretary-General could facilitate a restructuring to be more agile and efficient. Therefore, this Working Paper aims to obtain the support of the States to request ICAO to assign responsibility for the issue to a specific unit and with which ACVFFI could collaborate and interact.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to:

- a) urge ICAO to consider identify or establish a section/unit within the Secretariat to address the Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families.
- b) urge the Member States and Airline and Airports International Associations to contribute with resources and/or seconded personnel to that aim.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives: Safety, Security and Facilitation
<i>Financial implications:</i>	The resources of the Secretary-General or those contributed to the "No Country Left Behind" initiative for new horizons and ICAO programs.
<i>References:</i>	Resolutions A39-27: <i>Assistance to victims of aviation accidents and their families.</i> Annex 9 – <i>Facilitation</i> Annex 19 – <i>Safety Management</i> <a href="#">Report on ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families</a> , Final Recommendations 6.3

<sup>1</sup> English and Spanish versions provided by ACVFFI.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Conclusions of the ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (AAAVF 2021) - held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, from December 1 to 3, 2021 - identified the importance of adequate assistance to the victims from the early stages of the accident.

1.2 The A40-WP/60 reported that only 25% of the Member States provided information in ICAO's Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) System on the implementation of Recommended Practice 8.46 and recent USOAP audits verified it, in all cases the result was negative.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 During the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Assembly, the importance of establishing an appropriate victim assistance plan was reiterated to the States, taking into account Doc 9973 and the ICAO Policy of Doc 9998 (Resolution A39-27). Now it would be a matter of locating it within the structure of the Secretariat in order for the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families has continuity and follow-up.

2.2 The Report of the ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain) from December 1 to 3, has paragraph 6.3 with 30 recommendations which were approved by the Council in its session on February 21, 2022, in which the essential assistance to victims and families by the agents involved in air transport is reiterated: States, Airport Operators, Airlines, etc.

## 3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Establish an ICAO Secretariat section/unit for Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families, which addresses and manages proposals from Member States, ACVFFI and International Associations that wish to collaborate. This would provide an essential boost to the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families.

3.2 Finding a "home" within ICAO – as other aviation disciplines have – would show a real commitment to the darkest and most terrible part of aviation, air accidents and their consequences.