Response to significant concern to the safety of international civil aviation caused by the DPRK missile launches (Subject Nos. 14 and 24.3)

1. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/14642 (Revised), which was presented by Japan as well as the Republic of Korea, and co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Peru, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

2. The paper concerned recent incidents of ballistic missiles launches by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (“the DPRK”). It was noted that these missile launches had occurred over international air routes and without prior notice being given, thus causing significant concerns vis-à-vis the safety of international civil aviation in the region. It was further noted that in response to these incidents, the President of the Council had sent several letters to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to urge the country to comply with the principles, standards and recommended practices of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

3. The President informed the Council that the representatives of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea were invited to participate in this meeting on the grounds of special interest, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council, but that no accreditation to attend and participate in this meeting was received from the DPRK. It was also noted that on 2 October 2017, a reply was received from the Director General of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of the DPRK and the Representatives of Japan and the Republic of Korea were advised accordingly. The Council took note of the main contents of the letter as cited by the President of the Council.

4. Following consideration, the Council:

   a) recalled Assembly Resolution A32-6, Safety of Navigation;

   b) expressed its strong condemnation of the continued launching of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea over or near international air routes without advance notification, which seriously threatens the safety of international civil aviation;

   c) strongly urged the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to comply with the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, its Annexes, related procedures, and relevant ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in order to prevent the recurrence of such potentially hazardous activities;
d) noted that the United Nations Security Council had determined that the launching of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was in violation of its resolutions; and

e) requested:

i) the President of the Council to promptly inform the relevant authorities of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in writing of this decision of the ICAO Council;

ii) the Secretary General to inform all Contracting States through the issuance of an Electronic Bulletin of this decision of the ICAO Council;

iii) that a media release be issued to inform the public of the outcome of the Council’s meeting on this issue; and

iv) the Secretary General to continue to monitor developments and the level of compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its Annexes by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as well as to consider other measures by which this situation could be addressed and to inform the Council accordingly.