



International Civil Aviation Organization

ATC Oral Report  
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## ORAL REPORT

### 196TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

#### AIR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

#### **Report on the results of the ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS) and update on arrangements for the Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6)**

The ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS) was held at ICAO Headquarters from 18 to 20 April 2012, in partnership with the Air Transport Research Society (ATRS); the theme was *Strategies and Tools for Sustainable Air Transport*. It was attended by 388 participants, 66 States and 11 Organizations. The objective was to bring together key parties that have a stake in the sustainable development of air transport, including international organizations, aircraft manufacturers, air navigation service providers, airlines, regulators and academics, in order to share the latest developments relating to air transport. The presentations and discussions touched on topics that included:

- a global vision of sustainable air transport;
- the trends in the industry regarding airline mergers, alliances and consolidation;
- the financing of air transport;
- the challenges in forecasting for a cyclical industry;
- the liberalization of air transport;
- the economic benefits of air transport and the business models of new airlines.

The Symposium identified the major impediments to sustainable air transport, strategies to overcome them, and the tools to support their implementation.

Major impediments to the sustainable development of air transport were discussed and it was stated that the air transport system is too fragmented in terms of fragmentation of the industry, fragmentation of the economic value chain and fragmentation of regulatory frameworks. The Symposium identified three areas of concerns, i.e. the economic and financial situation of some of the air transport industry stakeholders, the lack of harmonization between a diversity of regulatory frameworks, and the environmental externalities generated by air transport.

The Symposium concluded that ICAO's work on safety, security and air navigation relates to and is dependent on air transport operators' activities and, as such, ICAO should focus more on air transport issues. Therefore, ICAO is the ideal forum for the promotion of sound regulatory and business practices, which are a condition for sustainable development of civil aviation.

It was recognized that ICAO has a leadership role to play in the harmonization of regulatory frameworks; in facilitating the further liberalization of air transport and possibly in the elaboration of multilateral/plurilateral agreements; in developing appropriate policies to ensure the sustainable development of air transport infrastructure; in designing global market-based measures for greenhouse gas emissions; and in fostering cooperation and exchanges among all stakeholders of the air transport sector. In view of the impact on sustainability that the current fragmentation of the air transport system may have, the Symposium proposed the development of an Annex to the Convention on International Civil Aviation that would address the issue.

A detailed IATS report will be submitted for information to the Air Transport Regulatory Panel (ATRP/11) which will convene in Montréal from 4 to 8 June 2012; this will enable the ATRP members to provide advice as to what further work may be required as follow-up to the IATS and in preparation for the Sixth Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6). Please note that all the Symposium presentations can be found on the ICAO IATS website under Documentation.

In terms of the progress made on the arrangements in preparation for ATConf/6 to be held in Montréal from 18 to 22 March 2013, a letter of invitation will be dispatched by the end of May 2012 to ICAO Member States and invited international organizations.

In consultation with the ICAO Regional offices, five seminars will be organized to prepare States for ATConf/6. The seminars will take place in cooperation with the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) from 1-2 July 2012 in Rabat, Morocco, tentatively with the Latin America Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) from 5 to 6 July 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) from 6 to 7 September 2012 in Dakar, Senegal, with the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) from 13 to 14 November 2012 in Paris, France and, tentatively, back to back with the 49th DGCA APAC Conference in October 2012 in India.

The Secretariat also initiated the planning of a one-day informal pre-Conference Seminar to take place on 17 March 2013; the Seminar will pave the way for more substantial discussions at the Conference. The Seminar programme will be developed to include a spectrum of air transport stakeholders and academia and will also be open to participation by States.

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