



ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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ICAO COUNCIL DECLARATION PLEDGES TO PRESERVE THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION

MONTREAL, 7 December 1994 - The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) today celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Organization with a pledge to dedicate all its energies and resources to preserving the safety, security and efficiency of international civil aviation and to ensuring that the Organization responds to the major challenges facing civil aviation in the coming years.

In the Declaration (copy attached), the Council specifically undertook to develop and adopt international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) to meet changing needs; to pursue the implementation of existing and future ICAO SARPs to the greatest extent possible worldwide; to encourage the development, transfer and implementation of new aviation technology; to cooperate with States through the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Regional Offices of ICAO, as well as through other appropriate mechanisms, in the planning and development of facilities, services and human resources required for civil aviation; to encourage the ratification by States of international air law instruments and the progressive development of air law; to address on a worldwide basis any environmental problems that may be associated with civil aviation; to explore new regulatory arrangements for international air transport and to develop related proposals.

In addition to the 33 Council delegations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and delegations from 137 Contracting States, 1 non-Contracting State and 27 international organizations were present. The 50th Anniversary of ICAO, celebrated today, also marked the first International Civil Aviation Day. The 29th Session of the ICAO Assembly designated 7 December of each year, starting in 1994, as International Civil Aviation Day.

ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. A specialized agency of the United Nations, it sets international standards and regulations necessary for the safety, security, efficiency and regularity of air transport and serves as the medium for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 183 Contracting States.

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**Declaration of the ICAO Council
in Celebration of the
50th Anniversary of the Signing of the
Convention on International Civil Aviation
at Chicago**

WHEREAS 7 December 1994 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago;

WHEREAS the fundamental aims and objectives of the Convention remain as relevant today as when they were conceived in 1944;

WHEREAS the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has during the past half century successfully fulfilled the responsibilities assigned to it by the Convention to meet the needs of the people of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economic air transport;

WHEREAS the primary objective of the Organization continues to be that of ensuring the safety of international civil aviation worldwide;

WHEREAS the Organization continues to discharge its duties as the world standard-setting body for international civil aviation and the world forum for civil aviation matters of a multilateral nature in the technical, legal and economic fields;

WHEREAS the Organization needs to adapt the vision of the founding fathers in Chicago to a rapidly changing world and respond to the major challenges facing international civil aviation, now and in the years to come;

WHEREAS the Organization continues to undertake its responsibilities as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations in contributing to international peace and to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the peoples of the world;

THE COUNCIL DECLARES:

That it will dedicate all its energies and resources to preserving the safety, security and efficiency of international civil aviation and to ensuring that the Organization responds to the major challenges facing international civil aviation in the coming years, particularly by:

- a) developing and adopting international Standards and Recommended Practices to meet changing needs;
 - b) pursuing the implementation of existing and future ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices to the greatest extent possible worldwide;
 - c) encouraging the development, transfer and implementation of new aviation technology;
 - d) co-operating with States, through the Technical Co-operation Programme and the Regional Offices of ICAO, as well as through other appropriate mechanisms, in the planning and development of facilities, services and human resources required for civil aviation;
 - e) encouraging the ratification by States of international air law instruments and the progressive development of air law;
 - f) addressing on a worldwide basis any environmental problems that may be associated with civil aviation; and
 - g) exploring new regulatory arrangements for international air transport and developing related proposals.
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