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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY — 32ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION

"This is an effort to give a voice to all the stakeholders, environmental and labour and other elements of civil society, in a new paradigm that ought to be mirrored in trade negotiations around the world" President Clinton on the Downing Street talks between the United States and the European Union 18, May 1998

1. There is increasing recognition of the rightful place of key stakeholders, including trade unions, in discussions on international trade and services. For the first time, for example, representatives of trade unions will be part of the UK government delegation negotiating a new international air agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States.

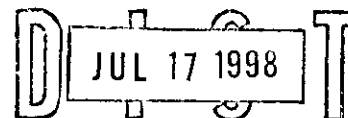
2. In 1994 the Fourth World-wide Air Transport Conference held in Montreal produced a number of important recommendations. These included the following, on Future Regulatory Content, Objectives:

"There was broad support on the basic objectives presented by the Secretariat,...in using such objectives, the interests of all states should be safeguarded and the interest of all stakeholders, including users and labour, should be carefully reflected."

3. The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) very much welcomes these developments. We applaud ICAO which is offering a positive model of this inclusive approach to regulatory affairs.

4. There are many serious issues for discussion before the Assembly and many challenges face us in the years ahead. We believe that these will best be met through the inclusive approach adopted by ICAO, an approach that ensures that all the aviation industry stakeholders can contribute to and share a commitment towards the outcomes of this Assembly and the work of ICAO.

5. Indeed we believe that such an approach, recognising the important role of these stakeholders, including trade unions, has already been shown to greatly benefit the work of ICAO and its working bodies.



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6. The ITF has put forward a more detailed vision of an international air system which includes safeguards concerning the social consequences of liberalisation and globalisation. This we have laid out in a document entitled Fair Skies which shall be made available to all delegations at this Assembly.

7. I should like to thank the Assembly once more for our invitation as an international organisation to participate in this 32nd Session of the ICAO Assembly. I am sure it shall be a very successful Assembly.

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