



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Election of Contracting States to be represented on the Council

CANDIDATURE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

(Presented by Trinidad and Tobago)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has the honour to advise of its candidacy for a seat on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation for the 2010-2013 period.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is an archipelagic State in the Southern Caribbean, lying northeast of the South American nation of Venezuela and South of the Grenada in the Lesser Antilles. The ethnic composition of Trinidad and Tobago represents the wide diversity of ethnic groups inclusive of African, Chinese, European, Indian and Syrian Lebanese. Trinidad and Tobago is a part of the fifteen member grouping of Caribbean States known as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) since its inception in 1973. It is also one of the thirteen Commonwealth countries of CARICOM.

2.2 The role of Air Transportation for mainly island economies cannot be over emphasized. In this respect CARICOM and its member States recognizes the critical role of the Council of ICAO in establishing Standards and Recommended Practices for International Civil Aviation.

2.3 The CARICOM recognizes the importance of being on the Council and wishes to ensure that the CARICOM Region is represented on the Council, the last Community Member being St. Lucia over the 2004-2007 term. In this respect the CARICOM fully supports Trinidad and Tobago's Candidature for a seat on the ICAO Council for the 2010-2013 period.

3. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S AVIATION ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Trinidad and Tobago has a rich aviation history with two International Airports and a National Airline formed in 1940 which continues to operate to this day. Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the International Convention on Civil Aviation and as such has undertaken to establish a civil aviation system to properly discharge its obligations under the Convention and the associated eighteen (18) Annexes. In this respect Trinidad and Tobago established an autonomous Civil Aviation Authority in 2001.

4. SAFETY AND SECURITY

4.1 Trinidad and Tobago is a founding member of the Association of Civil Aviation Authorities of the Caribbean (ACAAC) whose membership is made of Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Suriname. The States participating in ACAAC originally agreed to create a Regional Aviation Safety Oversight System with a view to bring the region to a higher level in all areas of aviation safety covered by the Convention and its Annexes and to facilitate the sharing of expertise, resources. This organization has since been succeeded by the CARICOM Aviation Safety and Security System (CASSOS) which has been designated an Institution of CARICOM.

4.2 This Regional approach embraced by Trinidad and Tobago is consistent with the global strategy promoted by ICAO to address safety and security oversight issues. In 2005 the country was designated a Category One country in accordance with the United States FAA IASA Programme. In January 2007, Trinidad and Tobago on a voluntary basis was audited by ICAO under the expanded USOAP. Further, in 2004 and 2008 Trinidad and Tobago was audited under the Universal Audit Programme.

5. AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES

5.1 Trinidad and Tobago is the custodian of the Piarco Flight Information Region since 1950. This is an area of 750,000 square miles from the island of Antigua in the north to Trinidad the south. Sharing borders with San Juan Oceanic FIR, Puerto Rico, Maquetia FIR, Venezuela, Georgetown FIR, Guyana, Paramaribo FIR, Surinam, Rochambeau FIR, French Guyana, Daka FIR, Senegal, Sal Oceanic, Cape Verde, Santa Maria FIR, Portugal, and New York Oceanic, USA. Trinidad and Tobago is also an active participant in the drive to develop seamless Air Traffic Flow Management in the region

5.2 The Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority has embarked on a modernization programme with a view to upgrade the services provided in the Piarco FIR. Aspects include the installation of new enroute and approach navigational aids as well as the start of construction of an Ultra modern Area Control Centre. The latter is a part of the new Administrative Complex that is currently under construction which consists of six buildings: an Administrative Headquarters, Training School, Area Control Centre (ACC), Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower, and two service buildings.

6. TRAINING

6.1 Trinidad and Tobago continues to host a large number of ICAO sponsored training seminars in the field of Safety, Security, Aerodrome and Safety Management Systems for regional participants. Trinidad and Tobago also has ICAO and ACI approved AVSEC facilities and there is also a Global Training Hub located at Piarco which provides training and support for airport personnel in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

7.1 Trinidad and Tobago via CASSOS is part of a programme to share technical resources within the region. In addition Short Term Experts have been provided to ICAO for the conduct of Security Audits and training seminars.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Trinidad and Tobago has been a member of the Council previously during the period 1972-1977 and 1989-1998. Over this period it undertook to work for the advancement of the organisation in the development of aviation as well as a voice for the CARICOM Region in the area of Aviation.

8.2 The importance of air transportation to the Caribbean region given its geographic composition and economic underpinnings is undisputed and as such mandates the highest level of commitment to the objectives of ICAO. It is in this context that Trinidad and Tobago, as a CARICOM country, submits its candidature as a member state to the Part III of the Council of ICAO for the 2010-2013 period.

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