

**ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION**

**PLENARY**

**Agenda Item 10: Election of Contracting States to be represented on the Council**

**CANDIDATURE OF SAUDI ARABIA**

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this paper is to inform Contracting States that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to present its candidature for re-election to ICAO Council under Part II at the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly (28 September - 8 October 2004)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is pleased to announce its candidature for re-election to the ICAO Council under Part II b) at the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly, as one of the States that make the largest contribution to the provision of air navigation facilities.

- Ever since its election to the Council in 1986, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been actively seeking, with all the means and resources, to shoulder its responsibilities as an ICAO Council member, with the objective of enhancing the role of the Council in order to realize the cherished goals of ICAO member States in a manner that meets the aspirations of the peoples of the world.
- It should be noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been continuously upgrading its facilities and personnel bringing to cope with the ever changing global conditions in the field of air transport, in order to face the challenges of the present century, through extensive modernization of air carrier fleet and continuing to upgrade air navigation facilities.
- Recently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken some decisions to facilitate private sector participation in air transport sector, alongside the national carrier, and we look forward to more intensive participation by the private sector. This will reflect positively on the volume of air traffic and the quality of services and tariffs in this industry. The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to turn the Presidency of Civil Aviation into a financially and administratively autonomous entity. This will give us complete flexibility to restructure and reorganize the Presidency so as to ensure the highest standards of safety aviation and security. This decision will also liberalize many regulations in order to develop the sector through

open competition for all, and assist in efforts to provide protection for the travelling public and those with a stake in the air transport sector. The restructuring will, on the other hand, help provide opportunities to the Airports Directorate in the new entity to run the airports on a commercial basis rather than as public entity. This will enhance the level of services and facilitate and help the growth of passengers and cargo traffic.

- The strategic location of Saudi Arabia at an intermediate position across the ancient continents and its vast area, made its airspace a crossing point to the main and vital air routes of the world, used by a high and intensive air traffic linking Asia, Africa, Europe and America. Besides, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia applies an open skies policy and reduced tariffs.
- Saudi Arabia attaches special importance to the air transport industry represented by its network of international, regional and domestic airports (26 airports) built according to state-of-the art specifications, engineering and architectural design, and equipped with the latest navigational and operational facilities. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia owns the most modern aircraft fleet in the Middle East, consisting of 100 modern airplanes. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's national carrier ranks 28 globally in terms of the number of passengers, and 24<sup>th</sup> in terms of air freight.
- The Kingdom attaches great importance to International civil aviation conventions and strictly adheres to international treaties and protocols, primarily the Chicago Convention, in addition ICAO SARPs and procedures, particularly those relating to safety and security.
- Within the context of its international role of Saudi Arabia offers air navigation services, operates a fully responsive air navigation system which complies with ICAO Regional Plan. The system reflects the latest technology in navigation and communication hardware and conforms to international standards and procedures.
- Saudi Arabia continues to contribute to the development of international civil aviation particularly in the Middle East. It has ratified and incorporated in its national laws all international conventions, Standards and Recommended Practices and procedures and guidance material established by ICAO, relating to safety and security in addition to the regulations ensuring the efficiency of civil aviation. The level of Saudi security measures surpasses those established by ICAO SARP's and Annex 17, according to international experts who conducted inspection mission to Saudi Arabia.
- Saudi Arabia has established a satellite-based Search and Rescue Station whose services cover the Middle East, most African States, in addition to Iran, Turkey and other countries.
- The size of the Technical Cooperation project has been the largest in the Middle East in the past 30 years and is fully funded by the Kingdom.
- Saudi Arabia supports the Universal Air Safety Audit Programme (USAP) so as to enhance aviation safety levels. Within the framework of this programme, the kingdom has approved the allocation of US\$ 100 000 for the purpose of improving

safety in the developing countries, being aware of its role as a member of ICAO Council Part II.

- Saudi Arabia is firmly committed to the principles enshrined in the Chicago Convention, and looks forward to continuing its contribution to the ICAO Council in furthering ICAO objectives by maintaining its efforts to serve the international community.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to receiving the support of the delegations participating in the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly by voting to re-elect it once again as Council member under Part II.

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