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ICAO ASSEMBLY TO DECIDE ON ISSUES VITAL
TO THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION

MONTREAL, 15 September 1998 – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will hold the 32nd triennial Session of its Assembly at the Organization's headquarters in Montreal, from 22 September to 2 October, 1998.

Delegates from ICAO's 185 Contracting States will meet to approve the work programme and budget of the Organization for the period 1999-2001, within the context of the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the ICAO Council on 7 February 1997. The Plan was designed to drive the ICAO work programme, priorities and budget into at least the early part of the 21st century.

The agenda of the meeting, normally attended by aviaton-related international organizations, also includes a full review of ICAO's activities over the past three years, in all major areas of civil aviation operations covered by the Organization's mandate, and the election of the 33-member Council which guides the Organization.

"The projects and issues submitted for consideration at this 32nd Session are so consequential that I believe the decisions of the Assembly will have a determining impact on the direction and scope of international civil aviation for decades to come," emphasized Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of ICAO.

Under safety, the Assembly will consider the enhancement of ICAO's Safety Oversight Programme, the development of a Global Aviation Safety Plan, a progress report on the programme for the prevention of Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT), and possible measures to further the implementation of ICAO Annexes on aviation safety and security.

Air navigation issues will focus on the ICAO Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems, specifically the recommendations of the ICAO World-wide CNS/ATM Systems Implementation Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in May. Discussions will centre around financial and organizational issues in the provision of air navigation services.

Reports to the Assembly will also cover such vital issues as: aircraft noise and emissions, and environmental charges and taxes; the Year 2000 "Millennium Bug" problem; smoking restrictions on international passenger flights; measures to increase the effectiveness of ICAO; implementation of the new technical co-operation policy; computer reservation systems; ratification of international air law instruments; and the adoption of the Chinese text of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The Agenda of the 32nd Session of the ICAO Assembly and related Secretariat Working Papers can be consulted on the ICAO web site: http://www.icao.int.

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 185 Contracting States.

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