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**SAFETY, SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
TOP LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS  
AT THE 35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ICAO ASSEMBLY**

**MONTREAL, 21 September 2004** – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will hold the 35th Session of its Assembly at the Organization's Headquarters in Montreal, from 28 September to 8 October 2004.

Delegates from 188 Contracting States will meet to review ICAO's activities over the past three years and to approve the work programme and budget of the Organization for the period 2005-2007.

The agenda of the meeting, also attended by aviation-related international organizations, will cover the major issues of aviation safety, security and protection of the environment. Also discussed will be the liberalization of the air transport industry, global air navigation policies, recent developments in the legal field, and various financial and administrative questions. The election of the 36-member ICAO Council, which guides the Organization between sessions of the Assembly, will be held at that time.

"Over the past three years, global air transport has been hit hard by the devastating impact of the events of 11 September 2001 and other acts of terrorism, the global economic slowdown, the war in Iraq and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)," said Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the ICAO Council.

"ICAO responded quickly and decisively to these challenges. The upcoming Assembly will be called upon to adopt resolutions establishing blueprints in six major areas to further strengthen international civil aviation," he added.

Under safety, the Assembly will consider the expansion of ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme, designed to determine the status of implementation by Contracting States of the Organization's safety-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). The security blueprint includes carrying forward the *Aviation Security Plan of Action* established in 2002 and the expanded use of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) enhanced with biometric identification characteristics.

Liberalization discussions will revolve around the results of the fifth Worldwide Air Transport Conference of March 2003 which established a strong consensus on a framework for the economic liberalization of the air transport industry. A strategy for the establishment of a globally harmonized and seamless air navigation system, formulated at the Eleventh Air Navigation Conference held in September 2003, will focus on the implementation of an operational concept that will ensure optimum safety and efficiency as demand for airspace capacity increases in the coming years.

The environmental protection blueprint contains specific goals to limit or reduce the impact of noise and aircraft engine emissions, while legal matters will look at further unifying the global legal framework to meet the evolving requirements of international civil aviation.

The full agenda of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly and related working papers are available on the ICAO web site: [www.icao.int](http://www.icao.int).

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