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ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION

PLENARY

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

CANDIDATURE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

(Presented by Trinidad and Tobago)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 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 Grenada in the Lesser Antilles. The ethnic composition of Trinidad and Tobago represents a wide diversity of ethnic groups inclusive of Indian, African, European, Chinese and Syrian Lebanese. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is one of the thirteen Commonwealth countries who are members of the fifteen members Caribbean Community (CARICOM)¹. Trinidad and Tobago is a twin island State with oil and gas being the main drivers of the economy.

1.2 CARICOM recognizes the critical role of the Council of ICAO in establishing Standards and Recommended Practices for international civil aviation. The Community recognizes the importance of representation at the Council and this has been effectively undertaken by Saint Lucia for the past three years.

2. PREVIOUS REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL OF ICAO

2.1 Trinidad and Tobago previously served on the Council during the period of 1972 to 1977 and 1989 to 1998.

¹ CARICOM comprises of the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

3. SAFETY

3.1 In 2001 Trinidad and Tobago established an autonomous Civil Aviation Authority in accordance with ICAO's guidelines for a State Safety Oversight System. Trinidad and Tobago and the other CARICOM States entered into a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the United States to provide assistance in establishing their Safety Oversight Systems. In 2005, the country was designated a Category One country in accordance with the United States FAA IASA Programme.

3.2 In January 2007, Trinidad and Tobago on a voluntary basis was audited by ICAO under the expanded USOAP.

4. SECURITY

4.1 In 2004 Trinidad and Tobago was audited under the Universal Security Audit Programme and will be audited in February 2008 under the second phase of the programme.

5. AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES

5.1 Since 1950, Trinidad and Tobago has been the custodian of the Piarco Flight Information Region, an area of 750, 000 square miles. The Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority has embarked on a modernisation programme with a view to upgrade the services provided in the Piarco FIR. Aspects of this programme include the installation of new enroute and approach navigational aids as well as the start of construction of on an Ultra modern Area Control Centre.

5.2 A contract has also been awarded for a FANS 1A CNS/ATM package which includes primary and secondary radars. The system is also CPDLC, ADB-B and ADS-C able.

5.3 Trinidad and Tobago has also embarked on a radar data sharing programme with Barbados, the OECS, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

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 training facilities and the intention is to provide, in collaboration with external agencies, broad based aviation training for the Region and beyond.

7. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

7.1 Trinidad and Tobago provides Short Term Experts (STEs) to ICAO for the conduct of Security Audits and training Seminars.

7.2 In 2005, Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the United States FAA provided technical assistance to the Eastern African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in the establishment of their Safety Oversight Systems.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Caribbean Community wishes to continue to be represented on the Council of ICAO. In this regard, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, the highest Organ of the Community, at its 28th meeting in July 2007 endorsed the candidature of Trinidad and Tobago for election to the ICAO Council as the representative of the fifteen CARICOM states.

8.2 The importance of air transportation to the Caribbean region mandates the highest level of commitment to the objectives of the Organization as outlined in ICAO's Strategic Plan for the period 2005-2010. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM wish to assure the Council and the Contracting States of ICAO of their continued support and highest consideration.

9. ACTION FOR THE ASSEMBLY

9.1 Trinidad and Tobago therefore seeks the support of all Contracting States for its election to Part III of the Council of ICAO.

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