

Air Traffic Services Committee Meeting

Madrid, 10 March 2015

Agenda item 4: Preparations for the ICAO Assembly in 2016

As usual, the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) will be sending a delegation to attend the 39th ICAO General Assembly in Montreal in 2016.

As many of you know, the ITF is an observer organisation, like many other non-governmental organizations such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airports Council International (ACI), the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) and the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations (IAOPA).

The ICAO Assembly occurs once every 3 years, reviewing in detail the work of the Organization and setting policy for the coming years. It also votes a triennial budget.

The Council, the governing body which is elected by the Assembly for a three-year term, is composed of 36 States. The Assembly chooses the Council Member States under three headings: States of chief importance in air transport, States which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for air navigation, and States whose designation will ensure that all major areas of the world are represented. As the governing body, the Council gives continuing direction to the work of ICAO. It is in the Council that Standards and Recommended Practices are adopted and incorporated as Annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The Council is assisted by the Air Navigation Commission (technical matters), the Air Transport Committee (economic matters), the Committee on Joint Support of Air Navigation Services and the Finance Committee.

The Secretariat, headed by a Secretary General, is divided into five main divisions: the Air Navigation Bureau, the Air Transport Bureau, the Technical Co-operation Bureau, the Legal Bureau and the Bureau of Administration and Services.

At ICAO General Assemblies the Section Secretariat and every ITF delegate works very hard. There is a good reason for this. Throughout the years it has become increasingly clear that ICAO decisions have a major impact on the working lives of aviation workers, for better or for worse.

ICAO's 38th Assembly concluded on 4 October 2013. As we informed you soon after the Assembly, following fierce debates and several rounds of votes in the Assembly's Executive Committee, ICAO decided to develop a market based measure for international aviation.

This means further and tough challenges for aviation unions and their members.

There is a determination amongst the ITF delegation to engage with the Organisation, though it is clear that we still have some way to go before the rightful place of aviation workers in decision-making is recognised amongst some in ICAO and its contracting States. Future relations with ICAO

will continue to be one of the items under consideration by the Section as it responds to the major challenges ahead.

We should not underestimate the difficulty we face in trying to engage with ICAO. Despite our official status we are routinely ignored by the decision makers. We need to start to lobby the council to make our voice heard. Set out below is the current list of member states. We should try to make contact with these state representatives as early as possible in the process and before we submit papers. For colleagues in the EU, you should note that normally at the assembly the EU speaks as one. It would therefore be a good idea to start discussing ICAO issues with the European Commission.

We have one-and-a-half years to the next Assembly and preparing is very important in having a successful result.

Our preparation should have two components:

- (a) Preparing one or more working papers on ATS to submit to the Assembly. This working paper(s) should be brief, action-oriented and focused, with a four-page limit, including any appendices. It should be a high quality and consistent working paper.
- (b) However, submitting a working paper by itself is not sufficient. A permanent lobbying effort (pre-Assembly, during the Assembly and post-Assembly lobbying) should accompany it. Targeting the Council member countries is particularly important.

We would encourage you to come to the Committee meeting with your concrete suggestions regarding this issue. You can send them to the Secretariat via email as well at aviation@itf.org.uk

Current member states of the ICAO council

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States.

Argentina, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Venezuela.

Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Poland, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.