ICAO COUNCIL 38

Last month (October) the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) concluded a landmark 38th Assembly after receiving endorsement from its Member States on sector-wide strategic planning. This exceeded many expectations when the organization agreed to develop a global market-based measure (MBM) for international aviation.

“This MBM agreement is an historic milestone for air transport and for the role of multilateralism in addressing global climate challenges,” affirmed ICAO Council President Roberto Kobeh González. He added, “Once again, our States have shown that significant boundaries can be surpassed when we agree to recognize and accommodate our varying circumstances while progressing together towards common goals. Through perseverance and compromise by our Member States and the guidance of our Assembly President and Executive Committee Chair, France’s Michel Wachenheim, we have ultimately determined our greener way forward.”

ICAO’s States agreed to report back in 2016 with a proposal for a global MBM scheme capable of being implemented by 2020. Major efforts will need to be undertaken in order to address the challenges and accommodate specific concerns of developing countries going forward.

The 38th ICAO Assembly also strongly endorsed two revised and significant ICAO Global Plans. Now served by complementary collaborative methodologies and clear operational performance objectives in the areas of Safety and Air Navigation, the new ICAO strategy documents will be instrumental to how States and industry unite over the coming decades to safely expand air traffic capacity and efficiently accommodate the projected doubling of air traffic by 2030.

“ICAO has received clear support at this Assembly for the global and tactical planning across all five of our 2014-16 strategic objectives,” stressed ICAO Secretary General, Raymond Benjamin. “These decisions will now help us to ensure and enhance air transport’s critical role in securing and facilitating the free movement of people and goods, expanding global markets and promoting broader and more sustainable social and economic prosperity worldwide. We have much work still before us but also a very clear mandate from our States to
continue leveraging collaboration and partnership to ensure practical and effective progress across the board.”

In all, 1,845 participants from 184 Members States and 54 observer delegations helped make the 38th Assembly the largest in ICAO’s history.

**Air Navigation Capacity & Efficiency**

With regard to the topic of Air Navigation Capacity & Efficiency continuing Safety progress will now be enhanced by complementary Air Navigation analysis and reporting cycles, as confirmed by the Assembly’s similarly strong endorsement of the revised ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP).

The GANP will permit ICAO to practically and flexibly realize the long-sought after goal of a globally-harmonized Air Navigation system. With its extensively-detailed aviation system block upgrade modules, the revised GANP provides unprecedented levels of transparency and planning certainty to States, regional implementation groups, service providers, airspace users and industry stakeholders. It provides clear guidance on the required operational targets and supporting standards needed over the next 15 years, not to mention the specific technologies, procedures and regulatory approvals these will be based on.

Picture caption:
*ICAO Council President Roberto Kobeh González (second from right), 38th Assembly President Michel Wachenheim of France (third from right) and ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin (top left) are congratulated by well-wishing Delegates and ICAO officials upon the highly successful conclusion of the 38th ICAO Assembly.*