

techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to:

- (a) ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world;
- (b) encourage the development of aircraft design and operation for peaceful purposes;
- (c) encourage the development of airways, airports and air-navigation facilities for international civil aviation;
- (d) meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe regular, efficient and economical air transport;
- (e) prevent economic waste caused by unreasonable competition;
- (f) ensure that the rights of contracting states are respected and that every contracting state has a fair opportunity to operate international airlines;
- (g) avoid discrimination between contracting states;
- (h) promote safety of flight in international air navigation;
- (i) promote the development of all aspects of international civil aeronautics.

Structure and activities

The International Civil Aviation Organization has a membership of 129 contracting states. Its machinery consists of:

- (a) *The Assembly*, in which all member states participate. Regular sessions of the Assembly are convened every three years to establish the general policy of the Organization and to approve its budgets. The twenty-first regular session was held in Montreal from September 24 to October 16, 1974. Extraordinary meetings of the Assembly may also be convened in the years intervening between regular sessions on the decision of the Assembly or the Council.
- (b) *The Council*, the executive body of the Organization, which sits in permanent session at the headquarters in Montreal. The Council is currently composed of 30* members, including ten representatives from each of the following kinds of state:

* Council membership will increase to 33 on ratification of an amendment to the Convention, adopted by the twenty-first Assembly, by two-thirds of the ICAO contracting states.