

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is the Specialized Agency of the United Nations that deals with intergovernmental concerns in the field of civil aviation. Its aims are to develop the principles and 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 in air transport caused by unreasonable competition;
- (f) ensure that the rights of ICAO contracting states are respected and that every contracting state has a fair opportunity to operate international air services;
- (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.

History

The need for international co-ordination of the development of civil aviation was recognized when a number of nations attending the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 set up the International Commission for Aerial Navigation. This body operated mainly in Europe, where rapid progress in aviation and a multiplicity of national frontiers combined to create the greatest need for action.

Within two or three years after 1939, large aircraft were flying shuttle services across the Atlantic and Pacific, while tremendous technical advances were being made under the stimulus of war. Chains of ground facilities were set up by the allied forces to serve the main trans-oceanic routes as well as new routes into areas not previously served. At the war's end, technical development was available to civil air-operators. In 1946, world-wide air traffic was nine times as great as it had been in 1938.

To deal with the whole complex of new problems and to create an environment in which civil aviation could make its maximum contribution to postwar society, the allied governments met in Chicago in 1944. The major results of the Chicago conference were the signature of the International Civil Aviation Convention and the establishment of the In-