

I wonder how many of the people who travel the international air routes at great speed realize how much of this they owe to ICAO through its development of international standards. . . . The most efficient aircraft . . . could not give the service it does without great strides having been made in the fields of international co-operation and standardization. The international traveller now accepts as commonplace what would no doubt still be only an idea without the quiet accomplishments of the International Civil Aviation Organization over the past 20 years.

The Assembly discussed a wide variety of international civil aviation problems and approved a series of policy resolutions to guide the work of the Organization in the technical, legal, economic and administrative fields during the next three years.

The Assembly asked the Organization to press forward with its studies with respect to the introduction into commercial service of supersonic aircraft; examined progress made in providing international civil aviation with adequate facilities and services to meet the increasingly exacting requirements brought about by high-performance aircraft and a great expansion in traffic; pointed out the need for both "user" and "provider" states to give serious consideration to the economic justification of projected air-navigation facilities and services; and asked the Council to assist states in their consideration and evaluation of the economic and financial aspects of regional plans. As one of the functions of the Council in the economic field is to forecast developments likely to require action by the Organization, the Assembly requested the Council to prepare and maintain long- and medium-term forecasts of trends in developments in civil aviation of both a general and a specific nature and to make these available to members of the Organization. The Assembly decided that ICAO should undertake studies to further the development of international air-passenger travel. These studies are to be conducted on a world-wide basis, priority being given to regional studies to meet the particular needs of developing nations in Africa.

The fifteenth session of the Assembly undertook a comprehensive review of the technical assistance activities of ICAO, which have expanded considerably during the past 14 years. After expressing satisfaction with what had been achieved, it asked recipient states to concentrate their requests for technical assistance on the ground services required for civil aviation, invited them to draw up long-range plans in this area, and reminded them of their obligation to provide the best-qualified personnel possible to work with the internationally-recruited experts. At the same time, the Assembly suggested that the United Nations be asked to help in the establishment or development of preliminary training-schools which would provide students with a sufficiently thorough background in such subjects as mathematics and science to enable them to benefit better from subsequent technical training.