

- i) states of chief importance in air transport;
- ii) states (not otherwise included) that make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation;
- iii) states (not otherwise included) whose designation will ensure that all major geographical areas of the world are represented.

The Council elects its president for a renewable three-year term. The president is an independent ICAO official not selected from among the state representatives on the Council.

The Council is assisted in its work by a number of subordinate bodies, including the Air Navigation Commission and the Air Transport Committee, which are responsible for technical and economic questions respectively, the Legal Committee, the Joint Support Committee, the Committee on Unlawful Interference, the Finance Committee, and the Working Group on Conditions of Service.

- (c) *The Secretariat* is headed by a Secretary-General elected by the Council, which is the permanent staff of ICAO. It comprises over 900 employees, including headquarters staff, as well as the staff of six regional offices (Paris, Dakar, Cairo, Mexico City, Lima and Bangkok) and the technical-assistance experts on location in developing countries.

International civil aviation has taken on increasing importance and complexity since ICAO's inception in 1947. The membership of ICAO has increased from an original 26 states to 129, a large number of which are developing countries. The scope of the Organization's activities reflects these changes. In the technical field, it seeks international agreement on the requirements of international civil aviation for facilities and services, on the means of providing them and on standardization of equipment and procedures wherever standardization is necessary for safety and regularity. These agreements generally take the form of annexes to the Chicago Convention. The Organization also collects, analyses and makes available to member states a vast amount of information on the technical aspects of civil aviation and provides assistance to members in the training of personnel.

ICAO has not been involved directly in the negotiation between member states of agreements to exchange rights for the operation of commercial air services, but it studies and seeks agreement on other