

Preface

Currently, and arguably throughout the twenty-first century, along with new issues that might emerge in air transport, there are four strategic issues that will continue to apply to air transport: safety; security; environmental protection; and sustainable development.

Of these, safety, security and environmental protection were heavily discussed at the 37th Session of the Assembly convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal from 28 September to 8 October 2011. The Assembly was attended by a record 1,588 participants from 176 Member States and 40 international organizations involved in civil aviation, achieved important advancements in aviation safety and aviation security assuring even greater safety performance in the already safest and most secure mode of mass transport in the world.

Reaffirming ICAO's its leadership role, the meeting adopted a comprehensive resolution to reduce the impact of aviation emissions on climate change. The agreement provides a roadmap for action through 2050 for the 190 Member States of the Organization. Solidifying its global influence, the Organization signed numerous international agreements, including cooperation agreements with regional civil aviation organizations and bodies from all regions of the world.

The Assembly endorsed a proactive safety strategy based on the sharing of critical safety information among governments and industry stakeholders. It also endorsed ICAO's plan to establish a multi-disciplinary approach to address the critical issue of runway safety. This will bring together representatives from airlines, airports, air navigation service providers and regulatory authorities. Following a successful diplomatic Conference in Beijing in August 2010, the Assembly built on this achievement by recognizing the need to strengthen aviation security worldwide. In a Declaration, unanimously adopted by participants, international commitment was reaffirmed to enhance aviation security collaboratively and proactively through screening technologies to detect prohibited articles, strengthening international standards, improving security information-sharing and providing capacity-building assistance to States in need. The Assembly also put its full support behind a comprehensive, new ICAO aviation security strategy.

The Resolution adopted by the Assembly on climate change makes ICAO the first United Nations Agency to lead a sector in the establishment of a globally harmonized agreement for addressing its CO₂ emissions. The resolution was adopted with some States expressing reservations and calling upon the ICAO Council to continue its work on specific aspects of the agreement. This remarkable accomplishment came only 2 months before negotiations are again undertaken by these very same States at the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting scheduled for December in Mexico.

Against this backdrop, this book addresses these four issues and the various complex areas that they present.

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