



## **AIDE-MEMOIRE**

### **JAMAICA'S CANDIDATURE FOR ELECTION TO PART III OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION 2022-2025 TRIENNIUM**

The Government of Jamaica presents its candidature for election to Part III of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), for the period 2022-2025, to be held during the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Assembly of ICAO, in Montreal, Canada in September 2022.

Jamaica has been a Member State of the ICAO since 1963 and represented the English-speaking Caribbean on the Council over the period 1977-1986. During the period of membership, a number of notable milestones were experienced including:

- a. The commencement of long haul flights to Europe in 1974;
- b. The rapid expansion of Air Jamaica in the late 1970's and by 1980, the airline served 17 different destinations;
- c. The Government of Jamaica (GoJ) in 1980 purchased Air Canada's shares in Air Jamaica;
- d. Air Jamaica started Boeing 747 service between Kingston, Jamaica and London Heathrow, with onward service to Frankfurt, Germany in 1983; and
- e. Air Jamaica operated the British Airways Concorde providing service on the weekends between Montego Bay to New York. It was the only commercial passenger supersonic aircraft ever in existence.

Jamaica and its regional partners rely heavily on the aviation sector to support the socio-economic development of their respective countries, with tourism as the major beneficiary. Jamaica, as such, is cognizant of the value of well-functioning and regulated airways.

Jamaica firmly believes that efficient and secured airways are of paramount importance and can only be achieved through collaborative efforts with our international partners in the ICAO. Proper regulatory policies reduce the costs incurred by states in performing their economic

regulatory functions, increase consumers' benefits and choices, improve air connectivity as well as creating more competitive business opportunities in the marketplace.

## **THE ICAO**

The ICAO plays a significant role in promoting safety, security and reliability in civil aviation, with the leadership provided being crucial in ensuring the continued development of international civil aviation.

It is Jamaica's firm belief that a secure and properly organized aviation sector is beneficial to all Members States regionally and internationally; and that holding a seat on the ICAO Council would place the country and region in a position to more meaningfully contribute in discussions relating to these issues.

## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

Jamaica is cognizant that the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected all spheres of life, with air travel brought to a virtual standstill at one point in time as a result. With virtually no flights at the onset of the Pandemic and the resultant loss of employment, followed by stringent safety measures upon resumption, there has been a significant decline in revenue for the aviation sector, which has contributed to a decline in the Gross Domestic Product of almost all countries, worldwide.

A unified, global approach is the only method, through which Jamaica believes the aviation sector will rebound from the debilitating impact of COVID-19 on the global community.

## **JAMAICA AND THE ICAO**

Jamaica has made significant contributions to the work of the ICAO and will further contribute by sharing its expertise in aviation safety, security and development as well as air traffic management. Being granted a seat on the ICAO Council would allow Jamaica to participate more meaningfully in the main decision-making processes of the Organization, and would enable our country to better promote its local industry, as well as advance the regional agenda; inclusive of air commerce, maintenance services and training institutions. The contribution of Jamaica to the ICAO is demonstrated as follows:

- i) Hosted ICAO's Air Transport Regulatory Panel Working Group meeting in April 2018, which was geared towards air transport liberalization and making recommendations and providing guidance in respect of discussions on Air Services Agreements (ASAs);
- ii) Participation in various high-level panel discussions, task forces, interactive sessions and workshops, which include the ICAO Cabin Safety Group and ICAO/Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Groups with the latter comprised of experts who provide advice to ICAO on cabin safety-related matters, and assisting in the development or revision of requirements, guidance material and implementation support to enhance cabin safety on a global scale; and
- iii) Represented by Mr. Nari Williams-Singh, Jamaica presided as President of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly.

## **REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Through its involvement with the safety oversight operating arm known as the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS), under the Association of Civil Aviation Authorities of the Caribbean (ACAAC), Jamaica will make meaningful contributions on the ICAO Council on behalf of the English-speaking Caribbean. Additionally, Jamaica will seek to influence the continued development of aviation in the Caribbean region by devoting more technical expert resources, to better serve the international aviation community.

## **LEADERSHIP IN AVIATION AFFAIRS**

Through our proactive approach and consistent contribution to the various working groups on various matters, including aviation safety, security, law, transport and environmental issues, Jamaica is recognized by the ICAO as a leader in the civil aviation industry among the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The outstanding contribution of Dr. the Honourable Kenneth Rattray, O.J., Q.C. to the ICAO, epitomizes the significant role that Jamaica plays in the aviation industry. Dr. Rattray was

awarded the Edward Warner Award by the ICAO in 1998 in recognition of his contribution to the development of international civil aviation, particularly in the legal field, and assistance provided to the other Member States in ICAO. Furthermore, in 1977, under the stewardship of Dr. Rattray, Jamaica presided over the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Assembly of the ICAO.

Having a presence on the Council, Jamaica believes, would further allow the country's representative to have a greater influence in the formulation of policies, in the performance of compliance audits, as well as in building aviation capacity through bilateral cooperation, as well as in conducting studies and analyses that would be beneficial to the interests of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

### **Regional Cooperation**

Currently, the interests of the CARICOM (and CASSOS) Member States are not directly represented on the Council. By having a voice in the composition of the various Commissions and Committees of the ICAO, through Jamaica's inclusion, the region would have direct influence on the content and language of the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). This would in turn strengthen Jamaica's relations with its regional partners.

### **Environmental Action Plan**

By virtue of being among the earliest countries to submit its Environmental Action Plan to the ICAO, Jamaica benefitted by being awarded the Airport Gate Electrification Pilot Project - "Solar-at-Gate Solution", which is a joint collaboration between ICAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This demonstrates Jamaica's commitment to the environmental sustainability of the international aviation sector; and on behalf of our Caribbean counterparts, Jamaica commits to fully supporting ICAO's ongoing efforts to address the key strategic challenge posed by climate change, for the sustainable development of international air transport.

### **Training of Regional Aeronautical Staff**

The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) assisted Trinidad and Tobago and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, with the training of staff for their respective

aeronautical authorities, in addition to providing the States with the necessary guidance on how to prepare their Action Plans.

### **Commitment to Climate Action**

Jamaica has also supported the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference of the Parties (COP), to showcase the progress of the Airport Gate Electrification Pilot Project, which will now be utilized as a model for implementing future programmes of this nature by the ICAO.

### **Liberalized Air Services Agreements**

In keeping with recommendations by ICAO, Jamaica has been on a path of progressive liberalization of its air transport sector for the past two (2) decades, and formally adopted an Open Skies Policy in 2008. Consequently, all recently negotiated ASAs have incorporated more liberal features, consistent with the GoJ's Open Skies Policy.

Jamaica has signed a total of thirty-one (31) bilateral ASAs as well as one (1) Multilateral Air Transport Agreement. Further, a number of ASAs are currently being finalized and an additional Multilateral Agreement. Moreover, there are other ASAs, whilst awaiting formal signing and agreement, which can be applied administratively. Upon completion of negotiations and formal signings, the total will be increased to more than fifty (50) ASAs and two (2) Multilateral ASAs. In addition, some existing ASAs are being renegotiated, with a view of being compliant with the Open Skies Policy. Furthermore, new Bilateral and Multilateral ASAs are always under consideration.

### **Grant of Extra-bilateral Traffic Rights**

As a tourism-dependent island state, Jamaica has maintained a mechanism which allows us to consider and facilitate the granting of extra-bilateral traffic rights, where there is no bilateral agreement or for rights that are not included in a current agreement. Since 2009, Jamaica has attended the annual ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event and uses the opportunity to negotiate, finalize and sign ASAs.

## **Aviation Security**

Jamaica possesses a Subject Matter Expert in aviation security and delivers training on behalf of the ICAO within the North American and Caribbean region. In addition, Jamaica serves as vice chair of the ICAO/LACAC Aviation Security and Facilitation Regional Group. Further, Jamaica currently leads the regional working group tasked with the development of a cyber-security aviation awareness training programme for the Caribbean and Latin America and has presented multiple papers and training interventions on this topic in the region.

**Jamaica also serves as chair of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Airport Communication Programme Steering Committee**, which has led to the implementation of a Joint Interdiction Task Force at Jamaica's two (2) major international airports. Furthermore, **Jamaica has worked with the Organization of American States** over the years in identifying technical experts to deliver aviation security training for the countries in the Caribbean Region.

## **AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT: PARTNERSHIPS/INVESTMENT INITIATIVES**

In 2003, a thirty-year (30) Concession Agreement was signed between the GoJ and an international consortium for the operation, management and development of the Sangster International Airport (SIA). This has been one of Jamaica's most successful Public Private Partnerships (PPP), with significant and on-going development of a world-class facility which serves as the country's main tourism gateway. Jamaica's other major international airport was recently privatised in October 2018, under a twenty-five (25) year Concession granted to an international airport operator group using the PPP principle.

## **Recognition and Awards**

### **I. Airport Service Quality (ACI-ASQ) Surveys**

As a result of the Airports Council International (ACI) - Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Surveys in 2009, Jamaica's airports were recognised for their services and facilities within the Latin American and Caribbean region.

## **II. Director General's Roll of Excellence**

The SIA was inducted into the Director General's Roll of Excellence by the ACI in 2014 as a result of its consistent top five ranking for the previous five years (2009 – 5<sup>th</sup> Place; 2010 – 4<sup>th</sup> Place; 2011 – 4<sup>th</sup> Place; 2012 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place; 2013 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place).

## **III. World Travel Award**

Each year since 2011 and as recently as 2018, the SIA has received the annual World Travel Award for the Caribbean's Leading Airport.

## **IV. ACI-ASQ Award**

Under the management of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) Limited, the NMIA earned the ACI-ASQ award for Most Improved Airport (Latin America and the Caribbean) for the year 2015.

## **Innovation and Capacity Building**

With assistance from the ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau, Jamaica successfully executed several innovative projects. During the period 2017-2018, Jamaica successfully completed the modernization of all radar systems, Air Traffic Control Automation System and Voice Communication Control System; which were seminal to the country's aviation modernization and efficiency efforts.

The modernization of these systems was essential to resolving safety oversight deficiencies, achieving safety improvements and improving the effective implementation of ICAO SARPs; which resulted in the country being designated as one (1) of twelve (12) recipients of the 2016 ICAO Council President Certificate.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jamaica regards the role of the ICAO Council as one of great importance towards ensuring equity and consensus in decision-making on aviation-related matters within the Organization. Jamaica remains fully committed to working with ICAO and its Member States, while participating in a mutual exchange of industry best practices, to build a safe, secure and efficient aviation industry.

Jamaica's membership to the Council will ensure that the interests of our regional partners (CARICOM, SIDS, Least Developed Countries and LACAC), continue to be properly represented and ventilated within the ICAO.

Consequent on the foregoing and combined with an allocation of significant resources, along with ongoing growth and development in the aviation sector, Jamaica will continue to contribute significantly towards ICAO's mission. Jamaica therefore seeks election to Part III of the ICAO Council as an essential element in ensuring equity, consensus and representation of the region in the aviation sector.