



ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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KYOTO PROTOCOL EMPHASIZES ICAO'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

MONTREAL, 12 December 1997 -- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been recognized, in a provision of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as the global instrument for developed countries to pursue the limitation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation.

"This provision of the Kyoto Protocol clearly establishes the role of ICAO as the principal forum for dealing effectively with international aviation emissions and recognizes the work of the Organization in environmental matters over the years," said the President of the Council of ICAO, Dr. Assad Kotaite.

While national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions cover almost all sectors of economic activity, they exclude emissions from international aviation because of the difficulty in allocating them to specific countries. For example, which country should be responsible for emissions involving an airline from the Americas flying over the Middle East, between a country in Europe and another in Asia?

ICAO began tackling environmental issues related to aviation as early as 1968 and has issued Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for aircraft emissions under the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. In recent years, ICAO has developed guidelines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from civil aviation and has co-operated with organizations directly involved in the Climate Change Convention.

ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of civil aviation in the world. A specialized agency of the United Nations, it sets international standards and regulations necessary for the safety, security, efficiency and regularity of air transport and serves as the medium for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 185 Contracting States.

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