



International Civil Aviation Organization

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## ICAO NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **INAUGURAL MEETING OF PAN AM REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP MAKES HISTORY**

**Montreal 21 November 2008** — The inaugural meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America – held from 10 to 14 November in Costa Rica ushered in a new era of regional cooperation between government aviation agencies and industry. It attracted participants from throughout the hemisphere.

The initiative, a first in civil aviation, was designed to fill the gap between air navigation and operational safety implementation activities involving States, international organizations, airlines, air navigation services providers, airports, manufacturers and regional aviation safety organizations throughout the Americas.

The new Safety Group will serve as a focal point to ensure harmonization and coordination of safety efforts aimed at reducing aviation hazards and risks in North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

“Some of the most significant advances in civil aviation safety have been achieved when government and industry work together to identify potential safety hazards and work together to mitigate risks to an acceptable level,” said Roberto Kobeh González, President of the ICAO Council.

“The establishment of this Group is reflective of an increasing trend towards the regionalization of international civil aviation safety initiatives. States throughout the world are finding that by pooling their aviation expertise resources they can achieve real safety improvements in a timely and sustainable fashion through international cooperation,” he added.

The basis for the Group’s work is the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Industry Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) developed by the Industry Safety Strategy Group, a group of major aviation industry stakeholders working with ICAO. The GASP and GASR provide a “flight plan” for all stakeholders to work together to improve civil aviation safety. The complementary Plans outline global safety initiatives or focus areas for governments, industry and regions, as well as a well defined process for identifying gaps between best practices and reducing duplications in efforts when implementing action plans.

During the first meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America, the group developed its governance structure, including an Executive Steering Committee that will provide direction and decide upon priorities for future work. Mr. Oscar Derby, Director General of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, was elected as the Group’s first Chairman.

Last week’s meeting also completed a gap analysis for the implementation of Safety Management Systems following the Global Aviation Safety Plan/Industry Global Aviation Safety Roadmap process. Recommendations were made to the group’s Steering Committee. The Steering Committee determined the priorities for implementation and developed a plan for the implementation of Safety Management Systems throughout the hemisphere building upon the synergies of the countries involved and industry to improve the safety and efficiency of international civil aviation.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.

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