



ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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For release on 7 December 1995

PIO 13/95

ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY 1995, ICAO WELL PLACED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

MONTREAL, 7 December 1995 — The global aviation community, based on a 1992 decision of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), celebrates International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December each year. This year's theme "The Aeroplane in Our Lives" presents an opportunity for ICAO and its 183 Contracting States to reinforce awareness worldwide of the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of States. The role of ICAO in promoting the safety, efficiency and regularity of international air transport is also being emphasized.

In his message to States, the President of the ICAO Council, Dr. Assad Kotaite, welcomes the challenge put to the Organization by the 31st Session of its Assembly (19 September to 4 October 1995) to become even more efficient than it has been in the last 50 years. It is Dr. Kotaite's conviction that ICAO is singularly well placed to continue its leadership role in the global air transport industry.

Dr. Philippe Rochat, ICAO Secretary General, stresses the importance of air transport as a growth industry, not only to the world as a whole, but also to individual States. He points out that even the essentials of life, like food, health and education have become dependent on air transport to a large extent. Training for civil aviation services and infrastructure have a profound impact on skills development and consequently on the labour pool in every State. And those sectors of each State's economy in which civil aviation plays the most significant part, for example trade, transport and tourism, are vital to the health of that economy and to the wellbeing of its citizens.

Dr. Rochat concludes "This year's theme 'The Aeroplane in our Lives' is a tribute to how this form of transport, not yet 100 years old, has transformed our lives. We pledge to you that, in full cooperation with all our Contracting States and the international aviation community, we will continue our efforts to ensure that this safest form of transport becomes even more safe, regular and efficient."

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 183 Contracting States.

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**Message of Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
on the occasion of
International Civil Aviation Day, 7 December 1995**

ICAO is celebrating its 51st birthday today, 7 December 1995, and our birthday present from the 183 Contracting States of the Organization could not be more appropriate. At its 31st Session, which took place in Montreal from 19 September to 4 October last, the ICAO Assembly acknowledged that ICAO has for over 50 years effectively and efficiently fulfilled its functions, but recognized that the Organization needed to be even more efficient when faced with new and rapidly evolving technological, economic, social and legal challenges at a time of global financial constraints. In effect the Assembly, which is the sovereign decision-making body of the Organization, recognized that the world aviation community is going through a period of substantial change, and that ICAO is not immune to the process. It therefore gave the Organization a clear charge for the next half century of its existence.

I welcome this challenge by the Assembly. In my own presentation I stressed the importance of change, not for the sake of change itself, but to make things work better. As each revolutionary development in air transport has faced the Organization, it has rallied to the needs of its Contracting States presented by that development. The Organization has always found its strength in the spirit of global cooperation entrenched in the Chicago Convention by its founding fathers, as well as in its adaptability to changing realities.

That is why, as we celebrate today under the theme "The Aeroplane in our Lives", I am convinced that ICAO is singularly well placed to continue its leadership role in the global air transport industry.

The vitality of the economies of our Contracting States has become increasingly linked to air transport. The States' recognition of this, and of the reality that the safety, regularity and efficiency of international civil aviation depend upon global consensus, has led them to be even more demanding of their Organization, ICAO. We will continue to grow and thrive under this mandate, and, in the process, continue to build that complex structure which supports the aviation community worldwide.



**Message of Dr. Philippe Rochat, Secretary General of the
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The international air transport industry, already one of the world's largest, continues to grow at a gratifying pace. In 1994, 1.2 billion people travelled by air. When combined with distances travelled, world passenger traffic performance reached 2 086 billion passenger-kilometres. This year, we expect that figure to grow to 2 222 billion passenger-kilometres, an increase of 6.8 per cent, and next year (1996) to 2 372 billion, a further increase of 6.5 per cent. The 20 million tonnes of freight carried by air in 1994 represented a 14 per cent advance over 1993, and freight is expected to increase at an even higher rate than passenger traffic. Financially, 1994 represented the second year of operating profits, after three years of operating losses (1990-1992), for the world's scheduled airlines. All this indicates that air transport is an important growth industry, not only to the world as a whole, but also to regions and individual States.

If we stop to think of how influential commercial air transportation has become in our lives, we would recognize that most things that are important to us have an air transport element. Even the fundamentals of life like food — whether it be inputs for agriculture, imported food items, or exports —, health and education have become dependent on air transport to a large extent. The training requirements for civil aviation services and infrastructure have a profound impact on skills development and consequently on the labour pool in every State. And those sectors of each State's economy in which civil aviation plays the most significant part, for example trade, transport and tourism, are vital to the health of that economy and to the well-being of its citizens. Above all, civil aviation serves increasingly to bring the world's people together, not only by shrinking distances and minimizing natural obstacles, but also by making them more aware of common imperatives through the growing combination of the aeroplane, the satellite and the computer.

We mark International Civil Aviation Day each year on 7 December. This year's theme "The Aeroplane in our Lives" is a tribute to how this form of transport, not yet 100 years old, has transformed our lives. We of the ICAO Secretariat are pleased that the remarkable growth of civil air transport has been accompanied consistently by increasing safety. We pledge to you that, in full cooperation with all our Contracting States and the international aviation community, we will continue our efforts to ensure that this safest form of transport becomes even more safe, regular and efficient.