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STATES RECOMMEND NEW FLIGHT TRACKING PERFORMANCE STANDARD AT ICAO HIGH LEVEL SAFETY CONFERENCE

MONTRÉAL, 3 FEBRUARY 2015 – Member States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommended the adoption of a new 15-minute aircraft tracking Standard earlier today, during discussions amongst the over 850 participants to the UN aviation body's 2015 High Level Safety Conference.

The recommended Standard is performance-based and not prescriptive, meaning that global airlines would be able to meet it using the available and planned technologies and procedures they deem suitable.

“This new Standard will be an important first step in providing a foundation for global flight tracking and the future implementation of the more comprehensive ICAO Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS),” commented ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. “Through an expedited process, it will now be sent to our Member States before the end of the month for formal comment and we’re anticipating its adoption by Council as early as this fall.”

The concept of operations for the GADSS was developed by ICAO over 2014, subsequent to the disappearance of flight MH370 and the special Multidisciplinary Meeting on Global Flight Tracking which ICAO convened soon after. It calls for a three-tiered approach for global aircraft tracking over the long-term, covering normal, abnormal and distress conditions.

The Standard recommended by ICAO's High Level Safety Conference today is considered to be consistent with the long-term GADSS concept. ICAO's intention is to coordinate regional exercises shortly after the standard is adopted, aiding States with both the Standard's introduction and their ability to respond to abnormal flight behaviour scenarios in an integrated manner.

“Implementation assistance is critical to the successful roll-out of any new Standard by ICAO and these exercises are therefore an essential step in our process,” stressed President Aliu. “In the longer-term ICAO will also be developing requirements and assistance measures for abnormal and distress tracking, which require more time due to their complexity and potential reliance on new technologies. This is fully consistent with the GADSS concept and ICAO is presently working in close coordination with EUROCAE and the RTCA in these areas.”

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Resources for editors: [2014 Global Flight Tracking Meeting Documentation](#) - [2014 Meeting Participants List](#)

[Working papers from the 2015 ICAO High Level Safety Conference](#)

[The ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan](#) - [The ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan](#) - [ICAO Online Regional Reporting Dashboards](#)

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