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ICAO DELIVERS FIRST SAFETY ACTIVITY UNDER THE AFI COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

MONTREAL, 9 October 2008 – The ICAO State Safety Programme/Safety Management Systems (SSP/SMS) Seminar and Workshop held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), from 22 September to 3 October, marks the first in a planned series of safety-related activities for Africa under the AFI Comprehensive Implementation Programme.

The two-week event, which attracted 281 participants from 19 African States and four international organizations, was designed to provide civil aviation authorities of the African Region with the essential building blocks on which to establish solid State safety programmes.

“With completion of this first Seminar and Workshop, participating African States are in a much better position to successfully meet the very serious safety challenges that confront the Region,” said Roberto Kobeh González, President of the ICAO Council. “The foundation for a much safer and efficient air transport system throughout Africa has been laid,” he added.

The AFI Comprehensive Implementation Programme was established earlier this year to put in place the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa adopted by the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly in September 2007. The overall objective of the Plan is to enhance aviation safety through increased cooperative efforts by government and global industry stakeholders, under the leadership of ICAO, in order to effectively address deficiencies identified through ICAO’s Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme.

The SSP/SMS Seminar and Workshop opened with a one-day awareness session for high-level management personnel from civil aviation authorities and aviation service providers in Africa, followed by the first ever SSP training course. In Week 2, attendees took part in ICAO’s well-established SMS course, already delivered to thousands worldwide.

Participants were introduced to the recognized safety management concept, with its supporting programmes — SMS for service providers, including airlines, air traffic services and airports, and SSP for civil aviation authorities — as a predictive approach to safety. ICAO’s analysis indicates that traditional safety strategies and initiatives focused on the outcomes of accidents and regulatory solutions to specific technical problems have begun to stall.

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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