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**“PROMOTING GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING”
THE THEME FOR THE 1999 EDITION OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY**

Montreal, 29 November 1999 – Promoting friendship and understanding is the theme of the 1999 edition of the International Civil Aviation Day celebrated annually to mark the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 7 December 1944.

The theme is taken from the preamble to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, which was signed in Chicago in 1944 and which created ICAO. It reads in part:

“Whereas the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world...to promote that cooperation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends...”

In his message for the occasion, the President of the Council of ICAO, Dr. Assad Kotaite, stated that the promise of the Chicago Convention had been fulfilled.

“We have come to know each other better than ever before and, in this way, hopefully gained a better understanding and appreciation for who we are as individuals and as members of a global community.”

“I am particularly proud of the central role played by ICAO in helping the nations of the world maintain an infinitely complex yet resilient structure of international regulations and agreements that make it possible to fly safely and efficiently to any country on the face of the earth.”

Dr. Kotaite also expressed confidence that the unparalleled spirit of cooperation manifested by the world aviation community in tackling the change of date to the year 2000, the “Y2K” challenge, was a source of inspiration for the civil aviation in the 21st century.

“Friendships were struck and strengthened, strategic communications channels were opened and dialogue has flourished where there was little or none before. A seed was planted. If we allow it to grow unencumbered, we can literally usher in a new era of friendship and cooperation such as the world has never seen.”

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In his message, the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Renato Cláudio Costa Pereira, *emphasized that safety and security will remain the top priorities of the Organization in a “new world order characterized by increased globalization, unprecedented sophistication of civil aviation systems and the sustained growth in demand for air travel”.*

He also indicated that accordingly, the 185 Contracting States of ICAO had given the Organization the resources and capabilities to ensure that it could continue to effectively carry out its role as the global aviation regulatory agency.

Mr. Costa Pereira singled out the newly-created Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme which allows ICAO to audit the safety oversight capabilities of all Contracting States, on a mandatory basis, and to recommend appropriate remedial action plans.

“I believe this ground-breaking initiative will be the catalyst for a new era in global cooperation among governments, airlines, airports, manufacturers and all other air transport partners.”

“Eventually, other areas of international civil aviation can become the object of a concerted effort to ensure that all Standards and Recommended Practices under the Convention are implemented consistently and effectively.”

Mr. Costa Pereira concluded by stating that ICAO is an increasingly effective and productive organization, “adopting a business-like approach to realizing our objectives and plans, implementing *procedural, managerial and administrative reforms which have already yielded substantial results in the decision-making processes*”.

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.

**Message from the President of the Council of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Assad Kotaite,
for the worldwide celebration of
International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December 1999**

As I reflect on the transition of our societies from the twentieth to the twenty-first century, I am profoundly heartened by the extraordinary potential of civil aviation to bring individuals as well as countries closer together.

This inherent quality of aviation was expressed eloquently as early as 1944, in the preamble to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, the document that created the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO.

“Whereas the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world...to promote that cooperation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends...”

Has the twentieth century fulfilled this promise? I believe so. Air transport has brought billions of people together, relatives, friends, tourists, and countless others engaged in all fields of human endeavour. We have come to know each other better than ever before and, in this way, hopefully gained a better understanding and appreciation of who we are as individuals and as members of a global community.

ICAO is proud to have played a central role in this profoundly human achievement, by acting as the international forum for its 185 Contracting States to maintain an infinitely complex yet resilient structure of international regulations and agreements that make it possible to fly safely and efficiently to any country on the face of the earth.

I am particularly sensitive to the power of aviation to bring nations with conflicting interests to sit around the same table, sometimes for the first time in decades, and discuss terms of mutual benefit, ultimately benefiting the rest of the world. In this sense, civil aviation is often the prelude to the healing and cementing of relations between countries.

But what of the twenty-first century? Can we sustain the momentum? Again, I believe so. A most graphic illustration is the manner in which not only nations but the entire world aviation community have cooperated in meeting the challenge of the date change to the year 2000, or Y2K.

Friendships have been struck and cooperation has been strengthened, strategic communications channels have been opened, dialogue has flourished where there was little or none before. A seed has been planted. If we nourish it and allow it to grow unencumbered, we can literally usher in a new era of friendship and cooperation such as the world has never seen.

Let this be the spirit of our celebrations as we salute International Civil Aviation Day!

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**Message from the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Renato Cláudio Costa Pereira,
for the worldwide celebration of
International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December 1999**

The twenty-first century will be tremendously challenging and stimulating for the International Civil Aviation Organization and the world aviation community!

As we prepare to cross this historic threshold, the mission of ICAO remains the same as it was throughout the twentieth century, to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation. Our role continues unaltered, to formulate and modernize the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) contained in the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The context in which we will be called upon to fulfill our goals, however, will be dramatically different, a new world order characterized by the increased globalization of trade and economics, the unprecedented sophistication of civil aviation systems and the sustained growth in the demand for air travel.

Throughout, safety and security will always be the first priorities. Nothing is more precious than human life; it transcends all political and economic considerations. On this point, there is an unshakable consensus among governments and all sectors of the air transport industry.

Accordingly, the 185 Contracting States of ICAO have provided their Organization with the resources and enforcement capabilities to ensure that it continues to effectively carry out its pivotal role as the global regulatory agency.

For example, the ICAO of the twenty-first century will be able to assess the degree to which safety-related SARPs are implemented around the world, under the ground-breaking Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme established on 1 January 1999. For the first time, ICAO will be permitted to audit the safety oversight capabilities of each of its 185 Contracting States, on a mandatory and regular basis, and to recommend appropriate action plans for optimum aviation safety.

I believe this ground-breaking initiative will be the catalyst for a new era in global cooperation among governments, airlines, airports, manufacturers, and all other air transport partners. Eventually, other areas of international civil aviation can become the object of a concerted effort to ensure that all SARPs are implemented consistently and effectively.

As we move in that direction, ICAO is knitting closer ties with each sector of the aviation community, to integrate with our activities the enormous expanse of expertise and experience in the design and operation of aviation systems and equipment.

We are an increasingly effective and productive organization, adopting a business-like approach to realizing our objectives and plans. We are implementing procedural, managerial and administrative reforms which have already yielded substantial results in the decision-making processes within ICAO.

Indeed, ICAO is well poised to meet its current and future challenges with renewed vigour and determination, in the spirit of friendship and understanding of this year's International Civil Aviation Day celebrations.