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**“ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF POWERED,
CONTROLLED AND SUSTAINED FLIGHT”
THE THEME FOR THE 2002 EDITION OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY**

Montreal, 4 December 2002 – “One hundred years of powered, controlled and sustained flight” is the theme of the 2002 edition of the International Civil Aviation Day, celebrated annually since 1994 to mark the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 7 December 1944.

“On the occasion of International Civil Aviation Day 2002, we begin a year-long celebration of the historic flight by the Wright Brothers that stands as the fulfilment of a centuries-old dream passionately shared by early aviators in many countries”, said Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of ICAO.

“Throughout its existence, ICAO has created and continually updated the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), as well as related policies and guidance material that, combined, have provided the Organization’s now 188 Contracting States with the ways and means to shape the growth of air transport worldwide in such areas as aircraft operations, airports, air traffic management, security and the environment”, he added.

“In so doing, it has been a productive forum for nations of the world to discuss issues of common interest or settle differences, in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, upon which the peace of the world depends. In its second century, aviation has the potential to remain one of the strongest tools at our disposal to achieve that high ideal, by bringing both people and States together”.

In his commemorative message, the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Renato C. Costa Pereira, paid tribute to the “millions of people worldwide who make air travel safe and secure for all of us...who give shape and direction to an incredibly complex and sophisticated system that we often take for granted because it works so well”.

Mr. Costa Pereira emphasized the critical role of everyone involved in air travel, from airlines, airports, air traffic control and the aerospace industry.

“At its core, aviation is people working for people. Everyone is essential to the successful completion of a flight, to getting passengers from departure to destination safely and in good health. This is as true today as it was throughout the development of air travel. It seems that aviation has always held a special power of attraction for people wanting to help other people. Based on that record to date, the second century of aviation is in good hands”.

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 188 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 2002**

On 17 December 2003, the aviation community will celebrate the 100th anniversary of powered, controlled and sustained flight. On the occasion of International Civil Aviation Day 2002, we begin a year-long celebration of the historic flight by the Wright Brothers that stands as the fulfilment of a centuries old dream passionately shared by early aviators in many countries.

From the perspective of these one hundred years, we might wonder whether those pioneers of the air could have dreamed that their passion would literally spread around the world and, with major advances in communications, eventually transform our planet into what Canadian Marshall McLuhan first called the "global village".

We can be grateful for their imagination and their sense of adventure. By the second half of the twentieth century, air transport came into its own as an industry and, within a few years, emerged as a catalyst for fundamental economic, social and cultural transformation. Directly and indirectly, it now affects every person on the face of the earth.

And yet, were it not for the wisdom of national representatives from 52 States who participated in the Chicago Conference of 1944, it is very likely that air transport would have evolved in a chaotic fashion, if at all. In five short weeks, those men of vision wrote, adopted and signed the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*. This timeless document established the framework for aviation to grow in a safe and orderly manner, in a spirit of equality of opportunity for all. It also created the instrument that was to give life to this grand design, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Throughout its existence, ICAO has created and continually updated the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), as well as related policies and guidance material that, combined, have provided the Organization's now 188 Contracting States with the ways and means to shape the growth of air transport worldwide in such areas as aircraft operations, airports, air traffic management, security and the environment.

In so doing, it has been a productive forum for nations of the world to discuss issues of common interest or settle differences, in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, upon which the peace of the world depends. In its second century, aviation has the potential to remain one of the strongest tools at our disposal to achieve that high ideal, by bringing both people and States together.

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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 2002**

The 100th anniversary of powered, sustained and controlled flight provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of the millions of people worldwide who make air travel safe and secure for all of us. Collectively, they give shape and direction to an incredibly complex and sophisticated system that we often take for granted because it works so well.

On the front lines are airline workers, from passenger agents at reservations and ticket counters to flight attendants and pilots. They are the most visible to passengers yet they are but the tip of a huge iceberg. At airports, personnel on the ground and in the offices, catering and fuelling staff, baggage handlers and maintenance people, and many others are all busy behind the scenes to support on-going airline operations.

There are the people who design and build the aircraft we fly in and those that maintain them at peak performance. There are those who operate the air traffic control systems that allow thousands of planes to criss-cross our skies with clock-work accuracy. And there are industry associations who represent their points of view in a concerted effort to continually improve all forms of air travel, whether scheduled or charter, business aviation or cargo.

From a regulatory perspective, Directors General of Civil Aviation and their teams of experts in all 188 Contracting States of ICAO have created and maintain a cohesive and harmonized set of services and facilities that, day in and day out, make it possible for millions of passengers to travel safely and efficiently within their national boundaries and to the far corners of the world.

In the Organization I represent, specialists at Headquarters and in Regional Offices focus on assisting Contracting States to ensure the integrity of the regulatory framework of international civil aviation, by updating standards, procedures and guidelines, and assisting States in meeting their financial and human resources needs.

At its core, aviation is people working for people. Everyone is essential to the successful completion of a flight, to getting passengers from departure to destination safely and in good health. This is as true today as it was throughout the development of air travel. It seems that aviation has always held a special power of attraction for people wanting to help other people. Based on that record to date, the second century of aviation is in good hands.

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