



International Civil Aviation Organization

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## ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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### INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY CALLS FOR THE GREENING OF AVIATION

**Montreal, 30 November 2005** – “*The Greening of Flight* — maximizing compatibility between safe and orderly development of civil aviation and the quality of the environment” is the theme for the 2005 edition of International Civil Aviation Day, celebrated annually on 7 December to mark the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on that day in 1944.

Commenting on ICAO’s role in the global effort towards a more sustainable aviation sector, ICAO Council President Dr. Assad Kotaite pointed to a range of standards, policies and guidance material developed by the Organization over 40 years or so, which have contributed to aircraft operations that today can be 70 per cent more efficient, cleaner and quieter than in the 1970s. For example, the implementation of satellite technology to air navigation allows for more direct flights, resulting in less fuel burn and less pollution.

Dr. Kotaite nevertheless emphasized that “liberalization of air travel and the remarkable growth of the air transport sector is outpacing environmental achievements, hence the need for even more concerted efforts on the environmental front.”

Since 1983, the work of ICAO has been carried out by its Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), a global forum for discussion and debate, information gathering and the formulation of recommendations. CAEP brings together experts from ICAO Contracting States, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and members of the world aviation community concerned by environmental issues.

“The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 16 February 2005 gave new impetus to ICAO’s work in addressing greenhouse gas emissions and reinforced ICAO’s leadership role on aviation and climate change. Specifically, the Protocol calls on industrialized countries of the world to work through ICAO to pursue the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions from international civil aviation,” Dr. Kotaite explained.

Dr. Taïeb Chérif, Secretary General of ICAO, outlined how the Organization had recently strengthened its commitment to *The Greening of Flight* through a comprehensive series of results-oriented programmes and activities to guide its actions and those of the world aviation community for years to come.

“Last year, the ICAO Council adopted six Strategic Objectives, with high priority given to environmental protection, while the new Business Plan asserts the Organization’s status as the leading international organization pursuing unified and coordinated measures to reduce civil aviation’s impact on the environment,” he said.

Emphasizing that reliable information is vital to the development of mitigation and prevention policies, and that ICAO cooperates with various United Nations bodies and research establishments on scientific reports that shed more light on the impact of aviation on the environment, Dr. Chérif confirmed

that ICAO will publish in 2007 its first *Environment Report*, an authoritative information and reference resource for discussions at ICAO tri-annual Assemblies.

Dr. Chérif acknowledged the many valuable partners in this collective effort “to provide the citizens of the world with as clean a mode of air transportation as we can make it. It is not an easy task, yet we must succeed for the future development of air travel.”

“Improving the environmental performance of aviation is a challenge we all take very seriously and we look forward to continued global cooperation in our drive for *The Greening of Flight*, so that air transport remains as environmentally friendly as possible until alternate sources of fuel and different technologies can one day eliminate its impact on the environment,” he concluded.

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 189 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 2005**

ICAO has exercised leadership for close to 40 years in maximizing compatibility between safe and orderly development of civil aviation and the quality of the environment, translated this year into the theme for International Civil Aviation Day – *The Greening of Flight*.

The basis for action has always been that we have but one sky and but one planet, and that we share the responsibility for protecting them both by addressing the adverse environmental effects of aviation - noise at and in the vicinity of airports, and aircraft engine emissions at the local level and at high altitude.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Organization developed a range of standards, policies and guidance material for the application of integrated measures embracing technological improvements, operating procedures, proper organization of air traffic, appropriate airport and land-use planning, and the use of market-based options. For example, the implementation of satellite technology to air navigation allows for more direct flights, resulting in less fuel burn and less pollution.

All of this has contributed to aircraft operations that today can be 70% more efficient, cleaner and quieter than in the 1970s. However, the liberalization of air travel and the remarkable growth of the air transport sector is outpacing environmental achievements, hence the need for even more concerted efforts on the environmental front.

In 2004, ICAO adopted three major environmental goals, to:

- a) limit or reduce the number of people affected by significant aircraft noise;
- b) limit or reduce the impact of aviation emissions on local air quality; and
- c) limit or reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate.

Channelling resources to meet these goals is ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), the global forum for discussion and debate, information gathering and the formulation of recommendations since 1983. CAEP brings together experts from ICAO Contracting States, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and members of the world aviation community concerned by environmental issues.

The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 16 February 2005 gave new impetus to ICAO's work in addressing greenhouse gas emissions and reinforced ICAO's leadership role on aviation and climate change. Specifically, the Protocol calls on industrialized countries of the world to work through ICAO to pursue the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions from international civil aviation.

Yes, we have come a long way and we also have a long way to go. Aviation is a universal dream realized. It promotes the economic, social and cultural development of peoples and nations around the world. It is part and parcel of our lives in this global society. We all have a collective responsibility to promote *The Greening of Flight* for generations to come, and ICAO will be there to lead the way.

**Message from the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Taïeb Chérif,  
for the worldwide celebration of  
International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December 2005**

Based on its long tradition and forward-looking approach, ICAO has recently strengthened its commitment to *The Greening of Flight* through a comprehensive series of results-oriented programmes and activities to guide its actions and those of the world aviation community for years to come.

Last year, the ICAO Council adopted six Strategic Objectives, with high priority given to environmental protection, while the new Business Plan asserts the Organization's status as the leading international organization pursuing unified and coordinated measures to reduce civil aviation's impact on the environment. The creation of an Environmental Unit within the Secretariat of ICAO will assist in the success of our environmental programme.

As it moves ahead, ICAO builds on a strong record of setting standards for the certification of aircraft noise and engine emissions, and developing policies to minimize the effect of aircraft operations on the environment. Recent initiatives related to climate change include a template and guidance material for voluntary measures, as well as information on operational opportunities to reduce fuel burn and emissions.

ICAO is also considering market-based options to address engine emissions through the participation of aviation in emissions trading schemes and the use of emissions levies related to local air quality. Guidelines for Contracting States wishing to implement such measures are being formulated and should be completed in time for the next regular Session of the ICAO Assembly in the Fall of 2007, when direction for future action will be set.

Reliable information is vital to the development of mitigation and prevention policies. To that end, ICAO cooperates with various United Nations bodies and research establishments on scientific reports that shed more light on the impact of aviation on the environment. One example is the Special Report on Aviation and the Global atmosphere produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1999 at the request of ICAO. Aviation became the first industrial sub-sector to have a dedicated report on its current and potential effects on the atmosphere.

In the spring of 2007, we will publish the first ever ICAO Environment Report as an authoritative information and reference resource for discussions at ICAO tri-annual Assemblies. It will also serve as a valuable public information document on our environmental activities for ICAO's main partners and interested parties beyond the Assembly framework, including the aviation community, relevant UN bodies, specific NGOs, universities, and the news media.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank these valuable partners for their role in our global effort to provide the citizens of the world with as clean a mode of air transportation as we can make it. It is not an easy task, yet we must succeed for the future development of air travel.

Improving the environmental performance of aviation is a challenge we all take very seriously and we look forward to continued global cooperation in our drive for *The Greening of Flight*, so that air transport remains as environmentally friendly as possible until alternate sources of fuel and different technologies can one day eliminate its impact on the environment.