



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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ICAO CONVENES CONFERENCE TO DEVELOP GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR AVIATION SAFETY

Montreal, 10 November 2005 - Transparency and sharing of information will be among the major issues to be discussed at a worldwide safety conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCAs) convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It will be held at the Organization's Headquarters, in Montreal, from 20 to 22 March 2006.

During the meeting, Directors General of the 189 Member States of ICAO will assess the current status of aviation safety, identify ways to achieve significant improvements and develop a safety framework for the 21st century – a Global Strategy for Aviation Safety – in an assertive, coordinated and transparent manner.

“The global air transport system is fundamentally safe. However, a series of fatal accidents in August and September focused attention on the urgent need to eliminate remaining systemic deficiencies, so as to further improve aviation safety worldwide. Doing so will enhance public confidence in the safety of air transport and support the continued economic contribution of aviation to nations and regions of the world”, said Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of ICAO.

“I expect this conference to be the most important on aviation safety since the DGCA conference of 1997, which created the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme to assist States in enhancing their respective safety oversight systems. The time is now ripe to review and bring all of our safety initiatives under the umbrella of a global strategy, while incorporating any new element that will further strengthen aviation safety, based on transparency and sharing of information”, Dr. Kotaite added.

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.

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