



International Civil Aviation Organization  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### ICAO WELCOMES SENIOR FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

**MONTRÉAL, 3 May 2013** – Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, Quebec Minister of International Relations, La Francophonie and External Trade Jean-François Lisée and Montréal Mayor Michael Applebaum, met with ICAO Council President, Roberto Kobeh González and ICAO Secretary General, Raymond Benjamin at the UN aviation agency's Montréal Headquarters today.

In light of a recent offer by the State of Qatar to relocate ICAO's Permanent Seat from Montréal to Doha, and following on a press conference on the topic earlier that morning, Baird, Lisée and Applebaum confirmed their joint determination to keep ICAO's Permanent Seat located in Montréal, which they referred to as "ICAO's natural home".

Kobeh and Benjamin meanwhile thanked the respective governments for their continued recognition and support for ICAO's important international role and positive contributions to the Montréal economy.

On 11 April, Qatar submitted an official offer to ICAO proposing that the Permanent Seat of the UN civil aviation organization be relocated to Doha. Under ICAO policies and procedures, the Qatar offer must now be submitted as a working paper to ICAO's triennial Assembly this fall, where it will be voted on by all of the organization's 191 Member States.

- 30 -

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, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.