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ICAO MEDIUM-TERM FORECAST POINTS TO CONTINUED INDUSTRY GROWTH THROUGH 2013

MONTREAL, 19 July 2011 – ICAO expects global air traffic to grow by about 5.3 per cent in 2011, 6.2 per cent in 2012 and 6.1 per cent in 2013, in terms of passenger-kilometres performed*.

The projected increases reflect positive economic prospects worldwide, based on an average 3.5 per cent growth in the world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the next three years, as estimated by IHS/Global Insight, a major economic forecasting organization.

Despite multiple headwinds, such as potentially higher oil prices and the implementation of fiscal austerity policies in key economies, this reduced forecast from the 3.9 per cent global GDP growth in 2010 should, nevertheless, allow the momentum in traffic growth to continue, fuelled by strong air travel demand due to improved household balance sheets and robust business cash flows.

Average annual traffic growth rates over the three-year period will vary by region, from a low of 2.9 per cent for North American airlines, reflecting a mature market, to a high of more than 14 per cent for airlines of the Middle East, which are expected to maintain a double-digit growth rate thanks to a differentiated development strategy for both airlines and airports in the region.

Traffic for Asia/Pacific airlines should grow considerably faster than the global average in each of the three years, due to higher economic prospects in States such as China and India, where aviation activity is expected to expand more rapidly, in line with the increase in the average household disposable income.

Latin American carriers should register the third strongest performance in traffic growth, sustained by strong domestic demand and a consolidated regional airline strategy. As economic conditions improve, African airlines should see higher traffic growth levels, while European airlines are expected to register a lower traffic growth than the world average, indicative of a maturing market despite the steady, good performance of low cost carriers in the European leisure market.

ICAO SCHEDULED PASSENGER TRAFFIC FORECAST FOR 2011-2013
(Passenger-kilometres performed are expressed in billions and growth in per cent)

REGION	ACTUAL			FORECAST		
	2000	2010	Average Annual Growth 2000-2010	2011 Growth	2012 Growth	2013 Growth
Africa	66	123	6.4	5.4	8.0	8.3
Asia/Pacific	736	1293	5.8	7.9	8.8	8.7
Europe	804	1317	5.1	3.3	3.8	3.9
Middle East	94	345	13.9	14.4	14.0	13.5
North America	1176	1412	1.8	2.4	3.4	2.9
Latin America/Caribbean	142	198	3.4	6.9	7.3	6.8
WORLD	3017	4687	4.5	5.3	6.2	6.1

* A passenger-kilometre is performed when a passenger is carried one kilometre.

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 190 Member States.