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UNITING AVIATION

News Release

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## ICAO CLARIFIES STATE RESPONSIBILITIES ARISING FROM CONFLICT ZONES

**MONTREAL, 24 July 2014** – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) issued a State Letter today, reminding applicable authorities in the 191 signatory States to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* of the international provisions specifying State responsibilities with respect to the safety and security of civil aircraft operating in airspace affected by conflict.

“ICAO has decided to issue this State Letter in response to some confusion which has arisen over these provisions and the responsibilities which they specify,” stressed the UN Organization’s Council President, Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. “We felt it prudent to ensure greater clarity and consistency with our Member States and Recognized Observer organizations on the international framework which applies, notably as these matters continue to be raised in public discussions following MH17’s tragic loss.”

The ICAO State Letter further highlights that the obligations of States should not be confused with safety information circulated from time to time by ICAO when potential hazards to civil aviation operations are brought to the attention of the Organization. It also draws the attention on the need for the appropriate authorities to consider and mitigate the safety risk and potential congestion consequences in the event that operators decide to circumnavigate various airspaces affected by conflict.

Its issuance is the latest of several actions taken by ICAO in the aftermath of the downing of Flight MH17, including coordination with the United Nations Security Council, the sending of experts to assist in the accident investigation and regular briefings to States of the ICAO Council.

- 30 -

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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.

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