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## ICAO WELCOMES MH17 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FINAL REPORT

**MONTRÉAL, 13 OCTOBER 2015** – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) today welcomed the Dutch Safety Board’s accident investigation Final Report for Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

Accident investigation Final Reports summarize findings and provide recommendations on the technical investigations conducted under the international requirements established by Annex 13 to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention).

“ICAO and its Member States responded rapidly in the aftermath of MH17 to address some important immediate concerns,” commented ICAO’s Council President, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. “Now that the Dutch Safety Board has issued its Final Report, ICAO will be reviewing its recommendations applicable to our Organization and responding as needed to ensure that air transport continues to be the safest way to travel.”

“In this respect it is important to remind all concerned that investigations under Annex 13 are directly related to improving flight safety, and not to the apportioning of liability or blame,” he stressed.

ICAO quickly established a special Task Force on risks to civil aviation arising from conflict zones in the weeks immediately following the MH17 tragedy. The Task Force recommended that ICAO should establish an online repository where States could share their conflict zone information more effectively, and where the public could also access it. ICAO launched the new online tool in April of this year.

Additional Task Force recommendations included advice on risk assessment terminology, a comprehensive review of existing requirements and message formats, and industry led-initiatives to share operational information and be more transparent with passengers. ICAO has also begun work on agreed contingency flight routings for conflict zones under its regional air navigation planning groups.

Immediately after the accident, ICAO accident investigation specialists began assisting and providing technical Annex 13 consultations to the MH17 investigation, at the request of the States which instituted it. This included advice on the formal handover of investigation authority from Ukraine to the Netherlands.

“Any fatality is one too many in civil aviation,” noted President Aliu. “Our sector is constantly improving its safety performance through a wide range of collaborative global measures relating to data sharing and the strategic prioritization of flight safety risks, and accident investigation Final Reports play a very valuable part in that process.”

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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