



Historic 'Dreams Soar' round-the-world STEM mission takes flight

For immediate release

Montréal, 15 May 2017 – Shaesta Waiz, the courageous 29 year old pilot of the 2017 'Dreams Soar' solo round-the-world flight for STEM, touched down in Montréal today at Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport and was greeted by a team of ICAO VIPs and the senior management of the STRATOS Aviation flight school.

Later this summer, when she completes her adventurous journey through 30 stops and 18 different countries, Shaesta will have become the youngest woman in history to embark on and complete a solo round-the-world flight.

"It's really incredible to have Montreal, the Headquarters of ICAO and the World Capital of Civil Aviation, as one of my very first Dreams Soar stops," Shaesta commented. "ICAO especially has been a huge help since Dreams Soar was first conceived, introducing me to aviation officials in so many of the countries I'll be visiting, providing flight safety and route advice, and mainly just by helping to organize the global support and cooperation that projects like this really depend on."

ICAO's support for Dreams Soar is part of its Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programme, which is focused on attracting the best and brightest to fill the hundreds of thousands of careers which will soon be available for new pilots and other skilled air transport personnel. Greater Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educational capacity and access globally is a critical prerequisite to developing this 21st century aviation workforce, making Dreams Soar a very natural mission to support for the UN specialized agency for civil aviation.

"ICAO is honoured to be a main Dreams Soar supporter, and we are very pleased that Shaesta's objectives align so well not only with our established NGAP programme, but also the new Gender Equality Programme we have recently launched," commented ICAO's current and first female Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu. "Only 3-5% of commercial pilots globally are women today, and that percentage must rise significantly if aviation is to effectively address its long-term human resources challenges. Dreams Soar is an amazing opportunity for us to bring this important message to young women all over the world."

"I'd only add that while my mission is all about inspiring a new generation of girls to become pilots, I also want them to better understand how important a decent STEM education is to making their career dreams a reality," Shaesta added. "Access for girls to STEM learning is not only about resources, but attitudes as well in many parts of the world, and Dreams Soar hopes to be a positive force for change at every stop along our route."

The Dreams Soar mission will be spending the entire week of 15-19 May in Montreal, conducting a wide range of student outreach visits and official events with ICAO support.

For more information on the Dreams Soar mission details and global route, please visit the [ICAO NGAP website](#) or the main [Dreams Soar](#) site.



Shaesta Waiz, the adventurous pilot undertaking the landmark 2017 'Dreams Soar' round-the-world flight to raise awareness for the need for greater access for girls and youth globally to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educations. Later this summer, when she completes her adventurous journey to inspire a new generation of women pilots, through 30 stops and 18 different countries, Shaesta will have become the youngest woman in history to embark on and complete a solo round-the-world flight.

Resources for Editors

[ICAO Next Generation Aviation Professionals programme](#)

[Dreams Soar – official website](#)

[Dreams Soar – B-roll footage of take-off](#)

[Dreams Soar – Shaesta photos](#)

[Dreams Soar – main promo video](#)

[Dreams Soar – General B-roll](#)

[Dreams Soar – A36 Bonanza aircraft](#)

About ICAO

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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