



## *ICAO Council President highlights aviation's importance to landlocked States, during high-level meetings in Kyrgyz Republic*

*For immediate release*

**Montréal and Bishkek, 24 May 2017** – The President of the ICAO Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, delivered important aviation safety and sustainability messages during a series of high-level meetings last week in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Visiting Bishkek at the invitation of the Kyrgyzstan Government, and accompanied by ICAO's European and North Atlantic Regional Director, Mr. Luis Fonseca de Almeida, President Aliu met with Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister, Mr. Souronbai Zheienbekov, as well as the Chief of Cabinet of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Sapar Isakov.

Stressing the socio-economic importance of aviation connectivity to landlocked States such as Kyrgyzstan, most especially in terms of enhanced tourism and trade, Council President Aliu further underlined that to access and optimize those benefits as fully as possible, Kyrgyzstan would need to address current aviation safety concerns identified through ICAO's audits. He also pointed to the need for high-level political will in order to address other ICAO compliance issues relating to Kyrgyzstan's air operations, and to its aviation safety and security oversight responsibilities.

"ICAO assists States all over the world in achieving these goals," President Aliu remarked, "notably through our No Country Left Behind initiative. It is aimed at delivering or coordinating assistance and capacity building to States in aid of their effective implementation of ICAO's global standards and policies, which in the end is the most fundamental prerequisite for global connectivity and enhanced prosperity for the citizens and businesses of landlocked States."

In addition to his key high-level messages on the role of aviation connectivity, President Aliu also discussed the need to align air transport infrastructure and other aviation development objectives with broader national and transport development policies, during separate talks with Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Transport and Roads, Mr. Jamshitbek Kalilov.

President Aliu also had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Kyrgyz Parliament, Mr. Chynybai Tursunbekov, its Deputy Minister of Transport and Roads, Mrs. Gulmira Abdralieva, and the heads of various public and private sector aviation sector organizations. Discussions with these officials focused on aviation challenges needing to be addressed by the State, the overall strengthening of Kyrgyzstan's Civil Aviation Authority, and the need to implement related legal agreements.

In every instance, President Aliu received the highest assurances that Kyrgyz political will was in place, and that the needed commitments and actions would be taken to further improve and develop civil aviation capacities and benefits in Kyrgyzstan.



ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu (second from left) and ICAO EURNAT Regional Director Mr. Luis Fonseca de Almeida (far left) meet with the Chairman of the Kyrgyz Parliament, Mr. Chynybai Tursunbekov (second from right). During his recently-concluded three-day mission, President Aliu's discussions focused mainly on the critical importance of global air transport connectivity to landlocked States, and the assistance ICAO can provide under its *No Country Left Behind* initiative so that the Kyrgyz civil aviation sector can achieve greater ICAO compliance and optimize the sustainable prosperity benefits of enhanced civilian operations.

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### 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.

### Contacts

#### **Anthony Philbin**

Chief, Communications

[aphilbin@icao.int](mailto:aphilbin@icao.int)

+1 (514) 954-8220

+1 (438) 402-8886 (mobile)

Twitter: [@ICAO](#)

#### **William Raillant-Clark**

Communications Officer

[wraillantclark@icao.int](mailto:wraillantclark@icao.int)

+1 514-954-6705

+1 514 409-0705

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](#)