



## ICAO concludes worldwide series of Safety Management Symposia in Kigali

For immediate release

**Montréal and Kigali, 22 May 2018** – ICAO continued its worldwide series of Regional Safety Management Symposia and Workshops in Kigali, Rwanda today, promoting the use of risk-based aviation safety approaches by ICAO Member States in the UN agency's African Regions.

"We have embarked on this Safety Management Symposium in order to help ensure that your governments are ready and able to optimize the full socio-economic benefits of forecast air traffic growth, and to continue to develop safe, secure, efficient and sustainable aviation systems," commented ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. "No African country or economy should be left behind where this potential for future prosperity is concerned."

ICAO's AFI Regions comprise the 48 States accredited to its two Regional Offices in Nairobi and Dakar. Together, these countries represent a very complex and diverse aviation environment with varying levels of safety oversight performance.

With this latest series of safety management events, ICAO is helping African and other States globally to progress their transitions from reactive to predictive safety analysis and planning. The Symposia have also served to improve insight and awareness on key safety management concepts among aviation leaders, while exploring new guidance in ICAO's soon-to-be-released 4th Edition Safety Management Manual (Doc 9859, which will also feature a companion online information and sharing platform).

"It is important to recall that implementing safety management is not just about having a signed document or a manual: it is about the leadership and resources required to move towards a proactive and data-driven approach to managing aviation safety," President Aliu underscored. "The responsibility for State Safety Programmes and the delivery of a strategic, national safety vision, must be vested in the highest levels of State leadership."

While visiting Kigali, President Aliu had the opportunity to present Ambassador Claver Gatete, Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, with a Council President Certificate for the commendable recent progress the State has made in meeting the Effective Implementation requirements measured by the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). Dr. Aliu was also pleased to conduct bilateral discussions later with Ambassador Gatete, in addition to the Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Minister of Aviation of Ghana, and Mr. Ninsao Gnofam, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Togo.

During the discussions with Ambassador Gatete, Dr. Aliu highlighted the importance of civil aviation connectivity as an enabler of national development, especially in landlocked States like Rwanda. He also emphasized the need to enshrine national aviation planning and investment targets in the State's national development strategy. The President encouraged Rwanda to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation, both in the East Africa Region and beyond, and suggested ICAO's "*No Country Left Behind*" initiative could be looked at to help Rwanda further improve its aviation safety and security oversight systems and address other air transport challenges being identified.

Dr. Aliu also highlighted the need for appropriate infrastructure to accommodate significant forecast aviation growth locally and regionally, and commended Rwanda for its recent investments to

augment the capacities of Rwandair and the Bugesera International Airport. He remarked that these will help support the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and air connectivity more generally on the African continent, as will Rwanda's commitment to champion the removal of visa requirements that support the African free trade area and freedom of persons more generally in Africa.

The President of the ICAO Council was accompanied during his mission in Rwanda by the ICAO Council Member for Kenya, Ms Mercy Awori, Chairpersons of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plans for Aviation Safety and Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI Plan and AFI SECFAL Plan), Messrs. Moussa Halidou and Kabbs Twijuke respectively, the Deputy Director of Aviation Safety in ICAO's Air Navigation Bureau, Mr. Catalin Radu, and by ICAO's Regional Directors for Africa, Messrs. Barry Kashambo and Mam Sait Jallow respectively.



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## Resources for Editors

### 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 192 Member States.

[ICAO's Safety Management website](#)

[ICAO's No Country Left Behind capacity-building initiatives](#)

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