



### ICAO welcomes resolution of Gulf airspace restrictions

For immediate release

**Montréal, 7 January 2021** – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) welcomed the announcement this week on the easing of Gulf airspace restrictions.

“This resolution to the former Gulf airspace restrictions will help assure that the important socio-economic benefits of international air connectivity can be better optimized among all the countries concerned,” commented Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano.

“ICAO’s role is to work with and among sovereign States to ensure more open skies globally, and continuously improving levels of aviation safety, security, and sustainability.”

ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu also welcomed the new developments from the Gulf, recalling that the ICAO Secretariat, through its Regional Office in Cairo, had rapidly established contingency routes to ensure the safety and regularity of international flights in and out of Qatar when the restrictions were first imposed.

“We were grateful to fulfil this important role when called upon,” she noted, “and to help assure that international air transport in the affected areas remained as safe, secure, and efficient as possible while the restrictions were in force.”



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#### About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters. Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized. ICAO forums also provide opportunities for

advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially-recognized air transport stakeholders.

## General Contact

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

Twitter: [@ICAO](https://twitter.com/ICAO)

## Media Contact

### **William Raillant-Clark**

Communications Officer

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

+1 514-954-6705

+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](https://twitter.com/wraillantclark)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)