

**Message from the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Taïeb Chérif,
for the worldwide celebration of
International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December 2005**

Based on its long tradition and forward-looking approach, ICAO has recently strengthened its commitment to *The Greening of Flight* through a comprehensive series of results-oriented programmes and activities to guide its actions and those of the world aviation community for years to come.

Last year, the ICAO Council adopted six Strategic Objectives, with high priority given to environmental protection, while the new Business Plan asserts the Organization's status as the leading international organization pursuing unified and coordinated measures to reduce civil aviation's impact on the environment. The creation of an Environmental Unit within the Secretariat of ICAO will assist in the success of our environmental programme.

As it moves ahead, ICAO builds on a strong record of setting standards for the certification of aircraft noise and engine emissions, and developing policies to minimize the effect of aircraft operations on the environment. Recent initiatives related to climate change include a template and guidance material for voluntary measures, as well as information on operational opportunities to reduce fuel burn and emissions.

ICAO is also considering market-based options to address engine emissions through the participation of aviation in emissions trading schemes and the use of emissions levies related to local air quality. Guidelines for Contracting States wishing to implement such measures are being formulated and should be completed in time for the next regular Session of the ICAO Assembly in the Fall of 2007, when direction for future action will be set.

Reliable information is vital to the development of mitigation and prevention policies. To that end, ICAO cooperates with various United Nations bodies and research establishments on scientific reports that shed more light on the impact of aviation on the environment. One example is the Special Report on Aviation and the Global atmosphere produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1999 at the request of ICAO. Aviation became the first industrial sub-sector to have a dedicated report on its current and potential effects on the atmosphere.

In the spring of 2007, we will publish the first ever ICAO Environment Report as an authoritative information and reference resource for discussions at ICAO tri-annual Assemblies. It will also serve as a valuable public information document on our environmental activities for ICAO's main partners and interested parties beyond the Assembly framework, including the aviation community, relevant UN bodies, specific NGOs, universities, and the news media.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank these valuable partners for their role in our global effort to provide the citizens of the world with as clean a mode of air transportation as we can make it. It is not an easy task, yet we must succeed for the future development of air travel.

Improving the environmental performance of aviation is a challenge we all take very seriously and we look forward to continued global cooperation in our drive for *The Greening of Flight*, so that air transport remains as environmentally friendly as possible until alternate sources of fuel and different technologies can one day eliminate its impact on the environment.