

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**30 June 2016**

**ICAO Secretary General set to pay a visit to South Africa**

*[Johannesburg]* The Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Dr Fang Liu, will pay an official visit to South Africa from 03 - 05 July 2016. This will be the first official visit by a top ICAO representative since the formation of the South African Civil Aviation Authority in 1998 and a rare occasion, since South Africa became a member of the world's civil aviation administration body in 1944.

During her three-day visit, Dr Liu will meet with the Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters, as well as the management of the South African Civil Aviation Authority, Airports Company South Africa, Air Traffic and Navigation Services, and various civil aviation structures and associations.

The visit is expected to strengthen relations between South Africa and ICAO; an essential development in an era where air travel has compressed the world into a global village. Given the immense catalytic role of aviation in terms of economic and social development, ICAO and civil aviation regulators across the world are consistently exchanging notes that will help create an environment where civil aviation and the associated benefits can continue to flourish.

In terms of compliance with ICAO's Eight Critical Elements of safety and security oversight administration, South Africa's level of Effective Implementation is currently rated at 84%, which is significantly higher than the world's average of 60%.

ICAO, through its recently launched 'No Country Left Behind' initiative, expects countries with a current ICAO Effective Implementation percentage like South Africa's to share their expertise with other countries across the globe. Given South Africa's impressive global ranking in relation to the administration of civil aviation safety and security, it is expected that discussions will also touch on how South Africa can continue to make inroads in terms of uplifting the continent's aviation safety and security record.

South Africa continues to contribute to the global aviation administration discourse by participating at the highest international forums tasked with administering global aviation. In this regard, South Africa is a participating member of most of the ICAO panels tasked with the development of aviation safety and security standards and recommended practices, which member states must effect when developing their civil aviation regulations. These, among others, range from panels responsible for safety management systems, through to those responsible for remotely piloted aircraft systems, frequency spectrum management, and aerodrome design. In addition to being a key member of ICAO's environmental and accident investigation panels, South Africa is also:

- Council Member State of ICAO, elected with 35 other states over a three-year term
- Chairperson of the ICAO Aviation Security Panel; and
- Chairperson of ICAO's CAPSCA programme in Africa – a forum tasked with the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases through air travel.

**-ENDS-**

**NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:**

***About ICAO:***

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a UN specialised agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). ICAO works with the Convention's 191 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector. These SARPs and policies are used by ICAO Member States to ensure that their local civil aviation operations and regulations conform to global norms, which in turn permits more than 100,000 daily flights in aviation's global network to operate safely and reliably in every region of the world.

***About the SACAA:***

The South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) ("the Act"). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board ("the Board"). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards. Website: [www.caa.co.za](http://www.caa.co.za)

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