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IFALPA Salutes ICAO on International Civil Aviation Day.

CHERTSEY 7 DEC: IFALPA salutes The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on the occasion of today's International Civil Aviation Day and congratulates ICAO on its choice of theme for this year "Safety and Security – First and always the top priority". This concept echoes one of the core elements of the Federations' mission "To promote the highest possible standard of aviation safety and security world-wide" and as such IFALPA wholeheartedly endorses this theme.

The Federation believes that a core element in achieving that goal is that the investigation of accidents be conducted in accordance with ICAO Annex 13, and more specifically, the provisions set out in Paragraph 3.1:

"The sole purpose of the investigation of an accident or incident shall be the prevention of accidents or incidents. It is not the purpose of this activity to apportion blame or liability".

It is IFALPA's contention that accident investigations be conducted by bodies that are independent of regulatory authorities. The establishment of such bodies will ensure that both the investigation and any judicial process will yield greater benefits in safety improvements that will benefit the travelling public as well as airline crews.

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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