ICAO ON RUNWAY SAFETY

ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations and 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 and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for co-operation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

On a statement issued from Montreal at the end of October ICAO and CANSO reflecting their commitment to more comprehensively address runway safety issues worldwide over the next two years. The two organisations were joined by over 100 expert participants in Cape Town at the joint ICAO/CANSO Eastern and Southern African Regional Runway Safety Seminar.

A key objective of these collaborative runway safety outreach and capacity-building events is to promote the establishment of targeted and multidisciplinary Runway Safety Teams (RSTs).

Presenters from the Air Traffic Controller (ATC), Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP), airport and airline operator, industry manufacturer, aircraft pilot and regulatory communities all provided important viewpoints and information supporting this process.

Participants were also provided with step-by-step, hands-on workshops on hazard identification, mitigation, monitoring and logging, the development of individualized agendas based on risk priorities, developing and formalising safety leadership and executive-level buy-ins, and so forth.

“This event has been a great success,” emphasised ICAO’s Captain John Illson, Chief of the Organization’s Integrated Safety Management Section. He added, “The collaboration by ICAO and CANSO, in addition of course to the many other stakeholders who have assisted us here in Cape Town, highlights why a multidisciplinary approach is so important to develop comprehensive solutions to mitigate runway related risks.”