STATES SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR
ICAO CONFLICT ZONE RISK INITIATIVES

It was announced from Montreal on 3 February that Member States of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) confirmed their support for
the Organization’s comprehensive conflict zone risk mitigation work
programme, including a proposal to develop a prototype online resource for
global conflict zone risk information.

More than 850 government and industry participants at ICAO’s High Level
Safety Conference confirmed their strong backing for the UN aviation agency’s
conflict zone objectives in recommendations that will now be guided by the 36-
State ICAO Council.

Commented ICAO Council President Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu: “Under the
Chicago Convention, each State is responsible for assessing civil aviation
conflict zone risks in their territories, and for making that information promptly
available to other States and airlines. The Task Force we convened after the
loss of MH17 identified that both States and airlines could benefit from greater
information sharing on conflict zones, including risks assessments for a given
conflict area, and that a centralized online resource could help facilitate the
exchange of information needed to achieve that objective.”

Added ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin: “This prototype online
database was one of the more important aspects of the overall risk mitigation
strategy proposed by the Conflict Zone Task Force. The intention is for this
central repository to be hosted by ICAO and to serve as a single source for up-
to-date risk assessments from States and relevant international organizations.
Importantly, it would also link all risk assessment data presented with the State
or organization which provided it, and a suitable legal framework would be
established to ensure that ICAO would not face liability implications arising
from the information which States and agencies submit.”

Other priorities of the conflict zone work programme which were supported by
the conference include the harmonization of terminology used for risk
assessments, a comprehensive review of existing requirements and message
formats, and industry led-initiatives to share operational information and be
more transparent with passengers on conflict zone risk methodologies being
applied.