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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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ICAO CARBON CALCULATOR

UNIVERSAL, NEUTRAL AND TRANSPARENT METHOD FOR ESTIMATING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF A FLIGHT

MONTREAL, 18 June 2008 – The ICAO Carbon Calculator, an impartial and internationally-approved web-based tool to identify the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from a given flight for use in carbon-offsetting programmes, is available on the Organization's website (www.icao.int).

“The Carbon Calculator responds to the wish of many travellers for a reliable and authoritative method to estimate the carbon footprint of a flight, so they can choose the programme best suited to offset the impact of their trips on climate change according to the amount of CO₂ they are responsible for,” said Roberto Kobeh González, President of the ICAO Council.

With the Calculator, only publicly available and verifiable sources of information are used in the calculations. The methodology used takes into account a range of variables such as aircraft type, route specific data, passenger load factors and cargo carried.

ICAO's Carbon Calculator supports the United Nations (UN) Climate Neutral Initiative which calls for all agencies and units of the UN system to determine their total carbon emissions. It makes it possible to harmonize the emissions estimates attributable to the air travel component of their operations. UN sister agencies, like the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), will be using and promoting the Calculator. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has recommended the ICAO methodology to its member airlines for use in their carbon offset programmes, to achieve a more consistent approach to estimating the CO₂ footprint of flights.

“We are excited at the potential of the Calculator to help individuals and organizations become part of the solution instead of being part of the problem. As more technical and operational information becomes available, the Calculator will evolve to better meet the expectations of the travelling public,” Mr. Kobeh added.

Increasing information in this area is one of the objectives of ICAO's first ever “Aviation and Carbon Markets Workshop” being held today and tomorrow in Montreal. The more than 200 participants of the two-day forum are meeting to explore opportunities for a global aviation carbon market. Key topics such as emissions trading, offsets and financing will be reviewed in detail. For more information, please visit the ICAO website.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO 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 cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.

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