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PRESS RELEASE

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Azerbaijan Receives Category 1 Aviation Safety Rating following U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Assessment

The U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan is pleased to announce that, following its International Aviation Safety Assessment, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ranked Azerbaijan in Category 1 for aviation safety. This categorization will permit Azerbaijani air carriers to initiate direct flights to the United States, which will support the development of tourism and cargo trade between our two countries.

The FAA determined that the Azerbaijani State Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) is effectively fulfilling its safety oversight obligations as a member state of the International Civil Aviation Organization in all eight critical elements. This determination was made following a Technical Review mission to Azerbaijan conducted by an FAA team in October 2013 and subsequent comprehensive technical discussions with the SCAA in December 2013 and January 2014 to review the progress that SCAA made.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency is pleased to have contributed to the SCAA's improvements in aviation safety oversight that resulted in the Category 1 determination. By particularly funding two phases of aviation safety technical assistance, the U.S. Government demonstrated its commitment to helping the SCAA achieve the international standard in the oversight of its aviation system.

We would like to congratulate the Azerbaijani Government for its diligent work, professionalism, and dedication over the course of the past several years to attain this categorization. The U.S. Government looks forward to continuing its work with Azerbaijan in the field of civil aviation.