



**Opening address by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Taïeb Chérif to the
ICAO Workshop on Aviation and Carbon Markets**

(Montreal, 18-19 June 2008)

I would like to welcome all of you to this Aviation and Carbon Markets Workshop.

The purpose of this workshop is to stimulate an exchange of views and to establish the current status of carbon markets throughout the world. To that end, we have opened our doors to all stakeholders that are directly or indirectly associated with carbon markets. We also designed the programme to allow for free-flowing and transparent exchanges with financial, industry and environmental experts who will enlighten us on the key issues and challenges we need to address in tackling aviation emissions and carbon markets.

Over the years, ICAO has diligently pursued its work in aviation emissions through three main approaches: technology, operations and market-based measures, which have a very important role to play in minimizing the impact of aviation on the environment.

Last September, the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the direction taken and the leadership of ICAO in environmental protection. At the same time, the Assembly recognized the urgent need for more concerted and effective action to reduce the carbon footprint of international aviation given the anticipated growth of aviation over the next decade and beyond. Aviation currently represents some 2 % of the world output of CO₂ emissions. In its deliberations, the Assembly reached consensus on the value of market-based mechanisms, including emissions-trading systems, as part of possible solutions to address aviation emissions.

The same Assembly resolution called on the ICAO Council to form a new Group on International Aviation and Climate Change. Its mandate is to recommend an aggressive ICAO Programme of Action to address climate change, consisting of strategies and measures that States can use to achieve emissions reductions, as well as fuel efficiency goals and means of measuring progress. ICAO will present the proposal at a high-level meeting before the end of 2009.

There are a few more recent initiatives I would like to point out as background for our discussions. One is the first ever ICAO Environmental Report which provides the world community with the most authoritative, comprehensive and timely information on aviation and the environment, as well as ICAO programmes and activities. Another is the recent publication of the first edition of the Guidance on the Use of Emissions Trading for Aviation, and finally, we will officially launch this morning the ICAO Carbon Calculator. The Carbon Calculator is an impartial, transparent and internationally-approved tool to identify the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from a given flight.

The information can be used in carbon-offset programmes, so all those of you who came here by air, for instance, will be able to calculate the carbon footprint of your trip.

Of course, meaningful and lasting progress in our collective drive to reduce the impact of carbon emissions on the environment can only be achieved through global cooperation – among the members of the aviation community and with international organizations dedicated to the protection

of the environment. ICAO prides itself on having established and maintained excellent relations through the years with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, - the IPCC, and of course the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – the UNFCCC.

ICAO is committed both to its leadership position within the aviation sector and to the longstanding relationship that links ICAO to the UNFCCC. The two organizations have long been partners in the common pursuit to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, a close collaboration born out of the extraordinary complexity of climate change and the particularities of international air transport.

As the eyes of the world are turning more and more to climate change, the need for all out global cooperation is more pressing than ever. Accordingly, UNFCCC and ICAO must increase even further effective coordination between themselves, to better tap the resources, the experience and the expertise both can bring to the table.

In fact, we are delighted to have with us this morning, via satellite transmission from Bonn, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, **Mr. Yvo de Boer**.