Address by the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, to the Forty-first Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA41)

(Lima, Peru, 1 December 2014)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ICAO and its Member States have been actively engaged in making progress on a comprehensive strategy to address CO₂ emissions from international civil aviation.

Under the auspices of ICAO, governments agreed to global aspirational goals for the international aviation sector to collectively improve fuel efficiency by two per cent per year and to keep the sector’s net CO₂ emissions from 2020 at the same levels.

To achieve these goals, ICAO has been developing policies, Standards, guidance and tools to facilitate the implementation of ‘a basket of measures’, including aircraft technologies, operational improvements, sustainable alternative fuels and market-based measures (MBM).

For example, at ICAO’s 38th Assembly held last year, Member States agreed to develop a global market-based measure for international aviation. Governments, the aviation industry and other stakeholders are working together to develop a proposal capable of being implemented from 2020, for decision by the next ICAO Assembly in 2016.

The ICAO Council’s Environment Advisory Group, with the support of our Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, is leading the development of the global MBM scheme and is making good progress. ICAO will be conducting a series of Global Aviation Dialogues on this topic in all ICAO Regions during 2015 in order to ensure full transparency on this process and exchange views with our Member States.

Due to the assistance and capacity-building activities of ICAO, including the training of national focal points in all ICAO Regions, within just a few years, 74 Member States representing 82 per cent of global air traffic have already developed and submitted action plans to ICAO aimed at reducing their CO₂ emissions from international aviation activity.

In addition, as part of the Organization’s efforts to expand assistance to States, ICAO has established two partnerships – one with the European Commission (EC) and another with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – to facilitate financing for States who need assistance in realizing their emissions reduction planning targets.

Mr. Chairman, cooperation has made our global aviation network what it is today and it remains our most valuable asset.
With the increasing determination and engagement of Member States, and in close partnership with industry and other international organizations, ICAO has been working actively to address emissions from international aviation and to realize the global air transport community’s vision for a fully sustainable international aviation sector.

I would like to invite all of you to participate in our side event to be held at 1830 hours today, where you can hear more about how ICAO’s partnerships have been facilitating Member States’ concrete actions to reduce aviation emissions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.