Mr. Secretary of Communications and Transport,
Mr. Under Secretary of Transport,
Director General of Mexico’s Airports and Auxiliary Services (ASA)
Secretary General of ICAO,
Attending Government Officials and Ambassadors, esteemed ICAO colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is truly a unique pleasure for me to congratulate ICAO’s former Council President and
my good friend, Mr. Roberto Kobeh González, on the great honour which Mexico’s Ministry of
Communications and Transport, and the Airports and Auxiliary Services Administration are bestowing
upon him today.

Training and capacity building are activities which are especially essential to sustainable
civil aviation progress, both here in Mexico and around the world. This is undoubtedly why their
advancement was always a clear priority of Mr. Kobeh during his illustrious civil aviation career. It is
also why it is very fitting that we find ourselves gathered here at a very impressive and
recently-inaugurated facility devoted to civil aviation training and capacity building for airports and
auxiliary services in Mexico – one which will henceforth carry the name and commemorate the many
achievements of former President Kobeh in perpetuity.

This is a very gracious honour, to be sure, but one which he most assuredly deserves.

Projected increases in air traffic volumes over the coming decades will be significant,
with ICAO’s latest forecasts showing a doubling of annual flights and passengers by 2030. We presently
manage over 100,000 scheduled commercial flights each day across the global air transport network –
over 30 million a year – however, as we begin to implement operational solutions for an aviation system
twice this size, we also need to lay a solid foundation in terms of ensuring sufficient resources for human
capital development to fully meet the projected needs for air transport skilled personnel.

This is why training and capacity building are so essential to the planning of most of
ICAO’s Member States today. It is also why the establishment of the Centro Internacional de Instrucción
de Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares (ASA) Roberto Kobeh González will serve as an important
component of Mexico’s commitment to deliver leadership and resources toward the development of
skilled air transport professionals now and into the future. This facility is a clear testament to the
willingness of your government and its Airports and Auxiliary Services to invest in cutting edge
technologies and establish the most up-to-date course development and training methodologies for the
benefit of both Mexican and regional aviation professionals.
ICAO is encouraged in this regard that this facility’s management has understood the value in becoming members of our Organization’s TRAINAIR PLUS programme, which plays an instrumental role in helping aviation training centres to develop and share the most effective aviation training course materials available today.

Amongst the many benefits of this programme, TRAINAIR PLUS promotes the implementation of affordable and competency-based approaches for aviation training and facilitates the development and implementation of standardized courses. Importantly from a collaborative standpoint, TRAINAIR PLUS also provides its member organizations with access to its international standardized training sharing system and cooperative course development network.

All of these goals are fully in line with ICAO’s objective to support, on a non-competitive and coordinated basis, the civil aviation-related human resources development strategies established by ICAO’s Member States and the global air transport sector.

ICAO’s training-related work will therefore be seeking to ensure that all of our States and global operators have access to a sufficient number of skilled personnel to operate, manage and maintain the worldwide air transport system at prescribed international standards for Safety, Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, Security and Facilitation, Economic Development of Air Transport and Environmental Protection.

I would also stress here that our training activities are also complemented by other capacity-building efforts including the delivery of seminars, symposia and publications pertaining to our contemporary air transport challenges. ICAO understands very well the importance of this work and we will continue to offer these events and programmes on a priority basis.

Thank you very much again for the opportunity to be with you here today, and to extend, on behalf of ICAO and the Council, our most sincere appreciation for the great honour which Mexico has bestowed on one of the Council’s most dignified and accomplished Presidents.