



**Closing Remarks
by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization
Dr. Fang Liu
ICAO World Aviation Forum
Wednesday, 25 November 2015**

President of the Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen ,

It is a pleasure for me to provide closing remarks on the completion of the first-ever ICAO World Aviation Forum: *Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development*. This event strongly supported the Organization's *No Country Left Behind* (NCLB) goals.

The *No Country Left Behind* initiative focuses on ICAO's strong belief that all States should achieve effective implementation of global Standards and Recommended Practices and policies, so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of a safe and reliable aviation system.

The Honorable Ministers and distinguished speakers provided strong evidence that with effective implementation of SARPs comes the critical regulatory framework that builds trust between States and assures global connectivity. Only then can there be growth in traffic, trade and tourism, and the resulting economic benefits for a State.

We heard how growth in a State's economy helps lift people out of poverty and allows that State to invest in further aviation development, commitments which then reinvigorate the cycle of increased air transport connectivity and mutually inclusive growth.

While we all understand the direct socio-economic benefits that can be gained from aviation, this has rarely translated into the level of investment which is necessary to truly derive them.

During the last two days, we heard about the important role of aviation to stimulate economic development, which was discussed at length. And it was clear that it should be promoted at the national, regional and international levels. It was also outlined that aviation is critical for other economic sectors, such as travel and tourism, telecommunications, and trade.

To that end, we repeatedly heard participants' commitments to actively engage in a common development effort recognizing the fundamental role of ICAO in achieving social and economic improvements.

Participants also underlined their support of ICAO's role and use of its tools to facilitate implementation of global standards and policies, and that our global community must work as one to try and increase the levels of investment.

The current level of the annual global development investment earmarked for aviation of 2.6% is simply insufficient to accommodate growth and ensure that aviation's benefits will be sustainable for all societies.

State Governments, the international development community, industry and others, advised and encouraged the commitment of aviation funding for implementation of SARPs, so as to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable global aviation system that will support economic development and social progress.

As outlined, all UN States recently adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, as well as a global financing framework to achieve the SDGs, which calls upon the cooperation of UN organizations to support the SDGs.

During this Forum, it was identified that ICAO's current programmes are linked to 13 SDGs. Through active participation in these programmes there is an opportunity to shine light on the important role of aviation for the economic, environment and social pillars of sustainable development, and to promote aviation as a priority for investment in Developing States. This will assist ICAO's efforts under the NCLB initiative which is focused on the implementation of SARPs.

Fundamental to this effort is the need of a coherent policy across all sectors at the national, regional and international levels.

Therefore, ICAO must use its unique role to make sure this message reaches the government ministries and agencies responsible for national development, economies, financial and budgetary allocations.

And we should also implement working arrangements with sister UN Organizations in order to optimize the use of limited resources on matters of common interest, while sharing relevant best practices. It is essential that Ministers responsible for transport work with their colleagues to ensure that aviation is included in their national development plans in order to mobilize resources.

We strongly believe that the improved collaboration amongst States, UN organizations, industry, and development and business community partners will truly benefit aviation, and through our global network the entire world community.

We have made a good start and we should maintain the focus of our sector on the global contributions and value of aviation through support of NCLB efforts and future ICAO World Aviation Forums.

I would like to thank the President of the Council and all the speakers, moderators, sponsors and participants to this event for their tremendous spirit of cooperation, and for their clear commitments to the future success of this important process.

I wish you all a very safe journey home.
