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**Remarks by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Fang Liu,  
to the Ashgabat Transport Business Summit  
High level Welcome Plenary Session:**

***“Businesses in action for Sustainable Transport for 2030”***

*(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 27 November 2016 at 0900 hrs)*

1. Good morning everyone.
2. I am very pleased to review some key perspectives and objectives which will help facilitate our discussions today on *“Business in action for Sustainable Transport for 2030”*.
3. An integrated network of efficiently managed transport systems represents an essential enabler of the more prosperous, mobile and sustainable future we are striving to realize together for humanity and the world.
4. Specifically with regard to civil aviation, our sector is able to operate over 100,000 daily commercial flights, supporting some 63.5 million direct and indirect jobs, a third of world trade by value, and contributes 2.7 trillion dollars annually to global GDP.
5. Recent landmark commitments undertaken at the highest level, such as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Paris Agreement* and the *New Urban Agenda*, are greatly dependant on the holistic coordination of land, maritime, air and – in the not-so-distant future – space-based transportation systems.
6. Our private sector colleagues will be playing a very important role in driving the innovation and investment necessary to realize these objectives, in close partnership of course with development partners and the civil societies these systems will ultimately serve.

7. I recall that just 3 weeks ago, at the United Nations System Chief Executives Board meeting, many UN agency principals underscored the need for a greater emphasis on partnerships and also innovative approaches to partnerships. Indeed, to deliver results and real impact on the ground for sustainable development for all, we need mobilization of all actors, especially the business and private sector. We need to strengthen your role and to catalyse action that you can scale up.
8. As we begin to envision these newly-integrated and more sustainable future transportation networks, we must first ask ourselves what specific qualities each should embody.
9. **Safety and security** are of course paramount, as those of us in global aviation understand all too well. And what we have learned along the path to our enviable performance records in these areas is that cooperative, cost-effective and risk-based approaches are fundamental to the robust, long-term solutions we are seeking.
10. **Affordability** is also key, most especially if transportation networks in the 21st century are to be truly inclusive, and fulfilling of their promise to provide the practical mobility and access to opportunity which is so urgently needed today.
11. This is essential to our joint efforts toward ending poverty and realizing greater prosperity across the full breadth of the socio-economic spectrum.
12. **Resiliency** is another fundamental requirement, and it helps to highlight for us that the massive investments now needed for transportation infrastructure and modernization worldwide must be directed to well-managed projects and products with dedicated accountability and quality assurance mechanisms.
13. And lastly, perhaps above any other requirement at this point in our history, our future transport solutions must respect the imminent threats of climate change and ensure that any proposed solutions help to reduce, rather than augment, humanity's collective greenhouse gas emissions.
14. The unique and time-tested United Nations platform provides us with both the perspective and the tools to address these issues.
15. As I have said earlier, going forward, we must work in closer cooperation with our private sector partners and establish working methods which help to enrich your contributions to our transport challenges.

16. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) which I am representing, has developed a very close and mutually beneficial working relationship with air transport operators and service providers over the years.
17. We have found that our airline, airport, air navigation services and other industry partners bring critical perspectives to our discussions, greatly aiding our efforts to achieve pragmatic, forward-looking and sustainable results.
18. Our shared focus should therefore be targeted on realizing integrated multimodal solutions which benefit every tier of transport user, optimize trade facilitation, and make full use of new and urgently-needed accountability tools such as the World Bank's *Global Tracking Framework*.
19. It is furthermore essential that governments in both developing and developed countries alike recognize the needs of all transport modes in their national development plans and policy frameworks.
20. The **Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport** initiative will be invaluable to the achievement of these goals.
21. The ongoing renewal and expansion of our air, rail, and road networks provides us with an incredible opportunity to drive the integration and partnerships which are now so urgently needed, and I am greatly looking forward to exploring all of these issues further with you over the course of our discussions today.

Thank you, and I wish you all a very productive Summit.

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