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**Opening Remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the 2017 High-level Committee Meeting
of the UN Procurement Network**

(ICAO HQ Montreal, 4 October 2017)

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organization, it is my pleasure today to open this 22nd High Level Committee Meeting of the United Nations Procurement Network.
2. Through this cooperation ICAO has already benefitted from improved procurement practices, the implementation of a Quality Management System and from an overall increase in the efficiency by which we support and serve our member States.
3. This complements some additional corporate efficiency advances we have been pursuing organization-wide in ICAO of late, for instance through our Performance Management Framework, the Results-based Budget we have implemented, and many other accountability mechanisms and reporting tools which together have made us a much leaner and more effective organization at the service of our States.
4. Through the harmonization of UN procurement procedures, I am confident that current and related UN cooperation can be further improved, and specifically through specialized agencies such as ICAO.
5. We not only engage in the procurement of aviation related goods and services such as navigational aids, airport construction services, communications equipment, control towers and aircraft, but also provide technical assistance through personnel and experts related to civil aviation.
6. This helps to explain how we presently are supporting more than 200 projects, in over 90 countries, whether through our Montreal Headquarters or any one of our seven Regional Offices.

7. ICAO's Procurement Section also provides many value-added services to our customers and clients, for instance in the form of integrated contract and project management oversight which ensures more timely and satisfactory project implementation.
8. Through our own lessons learned, and the dynamic exchange of information within the PN Network, new levels of efficiency are continuously being attained.
9. Another important point to keep in mind, in the course of your work, are the links between efficient procurement provision, successful projects, and the critical outcomes those projects can lead to for every member of the societies we ultimately support as International Civil Servants.
10. In ICAO's case especially, this work is particularly significant.
11. This is because the enhanced aviation connectivity our projects help States to attain has a tremendous multiplier effect on many other areas of their societies and economies.
12. These in turn are fundamental to governments' ultimate capability to achieve most of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals now adopted under Agenda 2030.
13. This helps to explain why our global network supports the employment of more than 63.5 million people around the world, and how it contributes an estimated 2.7 trillion dollars annually to global GDP.
14. Ladies and gentlemen there is much which ICAO can do to assist your respective agencies, and that holds true whether our collaboration falls under the categories of international standards and recommended practices, legal matters relating to the civil aviation framework, or more traditional development or procurement priorities.
15. I would call on you all to keep in mind how essential it is to the overall public perception of the United Nations that we jointly ensure the realization of well-structured and cost effective development projects, and that your role as procurement specialists plays a very important part in these overall results.

16. ICAO for its part greatly supports your key Procurement Principles for Fairness, Transparency, Value for Money and Compliance – core ideals which we also seek to champion in our own efforts on behalf of the many government and industry partners we cooperate with.
17. I will certainly look forward to considering any further proposals for cooperation which may result from your discussions, and on that note let me please wish you a very productive session ahead.
18. Thank you.