



Message for Dr. Liu
Delivered by Jiarong Yan, Chief, Office of the Secretary General
for IAWA-Connect Event
hosted by IATA on 19 April 2018

(Montreal, Fairmont Hotel)

1. It's my great honour to provide the following remarks on behalf of ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu, who greatly regrets that she could not be here due to previous commitments.
2. Dr. Liu's message is as follows:
3. ICAO is very pleased to collaborate on events such as this with our close partners at the IAWA, IATA, and ACI, and to strongly promote the more balanced participation of women and men at all levels in aviation.
4. As a former astronaut and STEM engineer, Her Excellency, Ms. Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, is an ideal spokesperson to promote our shared message, and to serve as an example to all women with respect to the theme for today's event:

"The Role of Women in Embracing Technology and Driving Change"

5. Technology, of course, is at the heart of everything we do in aviation. Our sector has historically been an early adopter of many innovations.
6. Indeed, emerging technologies are driving new types of commercial and social changes which will pose both challenges, but also many opportunities, for future women pilots, controllers and engineers.
7. We'll see drones navigating residential and urban environments to deliver goods, and we will also see sub-orbital planes moving at super- or hyper-sonic speeds, and at altitudes well beyond what we now know as 'controlled airspace'.

8. All of these changes are taking place at a very fast pace today, ushering in a completely new era in terms of how air transport supports modern societies, travel, and trade.
9. As the UN standard-setting agency for civil aviation, ICAO must be able to respond to these technological developments rapidly and dynamically.
10. We must further ensure the global regulatory framework is an enabler, and not an impediment, to the implementation of new innovations.
11. It will be very critical to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of skilled personnel to manage this increasingly complex technological foundation for 21st century aviation.
12. It is also critical that both men and women embrace these new technologies, driving together the future of air transport.
13. Last September, a “system-wide strategy on gender parity” was launched across the entire UN system. ICAO, like other UN agencies, is committed to this strategy.
14. As the first female Secretary General of ICAO, gender parity is a very near and dear concern of mine. It is my firm belief that achieving it is not only critical with respect to the basic human rights of women, but also to ICAO’s efficiency and credibility.
15. There is a Chinese saying that goes:

“Women hold up half the sky.”
16. While this may not be fully accurate in terms of the air transport sector today, it is certainly a practical and essential aspiration if we are to safeguard and nurture aviation’s sustainable future.
17. Let all of us here today, individually and collectively do everything within our spheres of influence to bring about impactful gender parity improvements.

18. Doing so will have significant bearing on the sustainable growth, competitiveness and future capabilities of the aviation sector, and ICAO is more than willing to be helping to lead on that journey.
19. Thank you all.