



**Closing Remarks by the  
Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization  
Dr. Fang Liu  
North American, Central American and Caribbean,  
and South American (NAM/CAR & SAM)  
Regional Conference on Aviation Security**

*(Panama City, Panama, 27 July 2018)*

1. With this Conference now having reached its very successful conclusion, please let me express how much of a pleasure it has been to witness such high level engagement from more than 200 participants to this event, representing more than 40 States and international organizations and industry partners.
2. ICAO greatly appreciates the time and thoughtful viewpoints you have shared with us this week.
3. I am sincerely thankful to the Civil Aviation Authority of Panama for the excellent organization and facilities provided in support of this conference, and for its warm welcome.
4. As with the previous regional GAsEP meetings we've convened in the African, Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and European-and-North Atlantic Regions, this conference has permitted us to exchange important and timely information on critical aspects of the Global Aviation Security Plan.
5. I trust it provided you with valuable insight on the GAsEP's principles, aims and objectives, as well as the aspirational goals and targets to be achieved per the timelines it establishes.
6. We have heard many views and examples over the last three days regarding the challenges, opportunities and achievements that come with our work in this field, as well as benefitting from some regional perspectives and new lessons-learned from existing aviation security initiatives.

7. Most importantly, however, it has been clearly underscored that you must continue to work collaboratively with all NAM/CAR & SAM Region stakeholders:
  - To improve regional security through assistance and capacity building activities, whether in cooperation with ICAO's Regional Offices or other partners;
  - To share your expertise, best practices and capacity building activities and opportunities;
  - And to recognize that government-industry collaboration plays a critical role in ensuring that States and regions meet their commitments in the GAsEP.
8. We also learned a good deal more about ICAO Assembly Resolution A39-18, and UN Security Council resolution 2309, both of which refer to the critical role of aviation security in limiting global terrorist activity.
9. With the Global Aviation Security Plan now in place to guide our aviation security enhancement efforts through a set of internationally agreed priority actions, tasks and targets, perhaps the most critical outcome to emerge from this event is the new GAsEP Regional Roadmap for the NAM/CAR & SAM Regions.
10. In light of the evolving nature of aviation security threats, and the methods employed to confront them, it is critical that States from both your Regions continue to drive coordinated progress based on the Roadmap's specific goals and targets.
11. And you must also ensure, from a more overall standpoint, that your national priorities and approaches continue to be aligned with those reflected in the GAsEP.
12. As we look to conclude this meeting, it is vital that the ideas and proposals which you've discussed over the last three days do not end here, but instead be distilled into a practical foundation to advance GAsEP implementation.
13. A key first step will be to socialize the GAsEP, and your new Regional Roadmap for it, as widely as possible among all Regional stakeholders.

14. By doing so we can increase awareness, understanding and ownership of its concepts, so that these can then serve as the basis for further dialogue and progress between governments and industry.
15. As ICAO Secretary General, I am committed to doing all I can to support these efforts.
16. This includes continuing the series of GAsEP regional conferences throughout 2018, building more and more momentum toward the High-Level Conference on Aviation Security which ICAO will convene at our Headquarters this November.
17. In closing now, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to recall that the GAsEP is a 'living' document, and that as such ICAO continues to welcome any and all comments on its proposed improvement.
18. For our part we will make sure the GAsEP is reviewed and regularly updated, especially in light of the fact that some regions have decided to address both aviation security and facilitation issues in a single regional plan – for example the SECFAL Plans of the AFI and MID Regions.
19. I also wish to offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this regional conference a success, and to appreciate the excellent presentations we received from our government and industry partners.
20. Lastly, please let me extend my deep appreciation to ICAO's Secretariat staff, both from Headquarters as well as from the NAM/CAR & SAM Regional offices, who have worked so diligently to help us make such important progress with this programme.
21. Thank you again, and I wish you all safe travels home.
22. *Gracias.*