



**Closing Remarks
by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization,
Dr. Fang Liu
to the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly**

(ICAO HQ Montréal, 4 October 2019)

1. It has been my great honour to serve as Secretary General for this 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly.
2. Let me begin by requesting a warm round of applause and appreciation for the President you elected for this 40th Assembly, Mr. Nari Williams-Singh of Jamaica.
3. And let us also please appreciate the dedicated Vice-presidents and Chairpersons of the Committees and Commissions which have supported your work.
4. And may we also please show a sign of our thanks to the President of the Council, the ICAO Secretariat, a great many of whom have sacrificed their nights and weekends not only these past two weeks, but also throughout the lead-up to this event.
5. This 40th session of the ICAO Assembly has benefitted from the participation of more than 2,400 delegates from 184 Member States, non-Member States and 55 observer delegations – the highest number we have ever hosted.
6. A total of 504 working papers were received from Member States and International Organizations, which marks an increase of 33 per cent compared to A39.
7. I was also very grateful that the ICAO Secretariat was able to implement sustainable management best practices throughout this event's preparation and hosting, with green environment and environmental protection principles

8. The Council President and I have been very encouraged to see such a high level of interest from Member States and industry in the work of ICAO, recognizing and supporting our leading role in global aviation.
9. As I am sure we were all aware here these past two weeks, the eyes of the world have been upon us as we have worked to continue addressing the carbon footprint of international flight.
10. In the midst of one the world's largest ever climate marches, passing right before ICAO's doorstep, it was therefore greatly encouraging for us to see you reconfirming your resolve in support of the CORSIA global offsetting solution and basket of measures to tackle the environment issue.
11. You also acknowledged the excellent recent progress achieved through ICAO on the first aeroplane CO2 emissions standard and the non-volatile Particulate Matter standard for aircraft engines, and endorsed that ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) should prioritize an exploratory study on environmental impacts of new supersonic aircraft being developed.
12. The successful adoption of the new fourth volume to Annex 16, and the ICAO-driven development and implementation of 116 State Action Plans to reduce aviation-related CO2 emissions, and the need for further elaboration of 2050 ICAO Vision on Sustainable Aviation Fuel, were also highlighted.
13. Most importantly, the Assembly was able to send a strong signal to the world that ICAO will prioritize the work on the feasibility of a long-term emissions reduction goal for international aviation, by developing options and an implementation roadmap, for consideration by the next Assembly. But only together in strong partnership between States, industry, civil society and other stakeholders, we will be able to do it.
14. In the areas of Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, you endorsed new revisions to ICAO's GASP and GANP Global Plans which will be instrumental to managing the adoption and integration of new 21st Century aircraft and operations alongside traditional aircraft operations.

15. We should also appreciate in this context the excellent insights we heard during the innovation-focused World Aviation Forum and Fair events which ICAO conducted on the eve of the Assembly.
16. ICAO also welcomed your agreement over the last two weeks that it should pursue a new global target of zero aviation fatalities by 2030.
17. These efforts will be augmented by the new Global Aviation Safety Oversight System (GASOS) which you adopted, and which will help augment safety cooperation and assist many States in terms of their aviation safety oversight, safety management, and accident investigation capabilities.
18. In the Areas of Aviation Security and Facilitation, you have endorsed the ICAO Cybersecurity strategy for civil aviation and called for its implementation through an action plan. You also strongly called for the establishment of a renewed governance structure to further the work on Cybersecurity initiated by the Secretariat Study Group.
19. This will feature important goals relating to information sharing, improved coordination among all partnering government and enforcement entities, and timely and aligned responses to related risks and events.
20. You have also endorsed that cybersecurity should feature prominently in the revised General Work Programme of the ICAO Legal Committee, and especially as pertains to the pertinence and adequacy of existing air law instruments.
21. We welcomed your endorsement for ICAO to forge global partnerships supporting the implementation and evolution of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP), in addition to your calls for ICAO's continuing TRIP Strategy work on passport and border control modernization, identity management infrastructure, and the ICAO Public Key Directory.
22. We were also encouraged that you expressed your clear agreement that ICAO should increase its outreach to States on the implementation of an Advance Passenger Information (API) system, and on the endorsement of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) urging that an ICAO standard be adopted relevant to Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.

23. Lastly, you have endorsed ICAO's continued focus on the recommendations which emerged from the Second High-level Conference on Aviation Security in 2018, including on the insider threat, achieving the national targets reflected in the GAsEP, and other aviation security priorities. You also supported the idea of making 2020 the year of Security Culture.
24. With respect to the Economic Development of Air Transport, you have strongly endorsed ICAO's continued focus on promoting the socio-economic benefits of air transport, including as this relates to new aviation infrastructure/system financing, and the economics of airports and air navigation services.
25. You have agreed that States should assess national taxation objectives in accordance with ICAO's policies and subsequent to appropriate cost-benefit analyses, and we were also pleased to receive your continued support for the ICAO Long-term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization.
26. Regarding ICAO's work to develop robust aviation data, monitoring and analyses, you have endorsed new objectives in the areas of air transport statistics, big data analytics, forecasting and economic analysis, including with respect to the development of an aviation satellite account methodological framework.
27. In terms of global air transport consumer protection, you have encouraged that all Member States should apply the ICAO Core Principles as well as to sign and ratify the Montreal Convention of 1999. I recall that this Convention was one of six treaties being promoted for ratification during ICAO's inaugural Treaty Event during A40.
28. ICAO welcomes your calls for us to provide technical expertise and support for the Plan of Action for Air Transport and Tourism Development in Africa, and that we should establish a new Global Aviation Competitiveness Index.
29. And lastly in this area, I wish to welcome the release during this Assembly of the new edition of the Industry High-level Group's Aviation Benefits report, to which ICAO is a key contributor.

30. In addition to these developments relating to ICAO's Strategic Objectives, I was pleased to see your endorsement that ICAO should provide fresh impetus to its Next Generation Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programme through a new, ambitious and holistic strategy capable of delivering effective tools to deal with the anticipated shortage of air transport professionals.
31. And in a similar vein, we welcomed States' clear acknowledgement of the scope and value inherent in ICAO's assistance and capacity-building prioritization under our No Country Left Behind Initiative.
32. Your governments have also appreciated here the invaluable assistance to Member States provided through ICAO's Global Aviation Training Office, notably toward achieving and maintaining the highest competencies of aviation personnel through ICAO's aviation training programmes.
33. I would finally like to acknowledge here both the calls to action and the praise which our Member States have expressed here regarding the efficiency and transparency of ICAO.
34. Please rest assured that all of your voices have been heard, and that you have my personal assurance as Secretary General that ICAO will continue to refine and implement all related governance policies and procedures in order to better serve your States and global aviation.
35. It will be our pleasure now to welcome and begin working with the new Council you have elected, actioning the key priorities and new work programme which has been adopted for us here, and using your agreed budget and the additional resource mobilization which will be needed.
36. The results-based budget in particular sets out the priorities to guide the activities of the Organization, and provides an overview of the emerging aviation issues and risks facing ICAO.
37. Under the guidance of the Council, the Secretariat will now be making every effort to overcome any related challenges and to implement the budget and work programme to the benefit of our sector and our Member States.
38. Having seen so many of the videos and other tributes on display which States prepared for ICAO this year, in honour of our 75th Anniversary, please let me extend the Secretariat's deep gratitude

for the partnership and commitment which so many States have undertaken this year to help celebrate this organization and its important global role.

39. The 40th Assembly is also my last Assembly as Secretary General. It has been my great honour to serve this organization as Secretary General, to lead the Secretariat to deliver services to you, our Member States, to industry, and to our global aviation sector.
40. While there have been some discussions about the Secretariat during this Assembly, all delegations have now experienced personally how amazing this organization really is. Secretariat staff members have worked around the clock in order to ensure that all documents in all six languages are ready for your review when you arrive in the morning in this building, and they have provided interpretation services for you during your deliberations. Building security has been maintained and also many other logistic services provided, including the set up of this Assembly Hall. Activities you have probably not noticed, because they have been done so smoothly and efficiently.
41. As indicated earlier, we have had a historical record of work volume this Assembly, in terms of participants and working papers. Even with the reduced resources of this triennium, the Secretariat made great efforts to enhance the efficiency of the organization and to modernize our process so that we are able to provide and to present to you all of these results, which were just recorded in the Assembly report. I believe ICAO and the Secretariat has become closer to you, our Member States and industry, with the No Country Left Behind Initiative. Under the Assembly's direction and the Council's guidance, we were able to produce all these results for you.
42. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the entire Secretariat for your dedication, for your professionalism, for your loyalty to this organization, through which we are able to serve our Member States to deliver all of these services, and we are proud to be part of this organization.
43. And now I would like to say, until our good fortune to meet again, whether here in Montréal or in your respective States and Regions, may I wish all of you safe journeys home and continued success on all of the challenges we're addressing in support of our remarkable global network.
44. Thank you so much.