



**Welcome Speech  
by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Fang Liu  
to the 2020 ICAO/IATA/ACI  
International Women’s Day Event**

*(ICAO HQ, 6 March 2020)*

*Good afternoon everyone.*

1. I’m delighted to have the chance to share some thoughts with you today on the occasion of International Women’s Day.
2. Let me please extend a very warm welcome to our ICAO Secretariat and Delegation staff, and to the participants from our partner and other local organizations including ACI, IATA, and Aero Montreal.
3. The theme of international women’s day this year is:

*“I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights.”*

4. The aim of the *Generation Equality* campaign is to bring people together and drive actions and outcomes which will realize the gender-equal world we all deserve.
5. Gender equality is not only a basic human right. Its achievement also has enormous socio-economic benefits, given how the progressive empowerment of women spurs productivity and growth to drive thriving economies.
6. Despite these very positive outcomes, however, gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in many sectors and societies.

7. Those of us working as career professionals in air transport recognize aviation as a forward-looking industry, and one which continues to grow as more and more societies take advantage of the unique benefits of global air connectivity.
8. As it connects more and more citizens, societies, and businesses all over the world, aviation growth also poses challenges to air transport leaders in terms of ensuring suitable numbers of qualified women and men to keep our network well-managed and well-operated.
9. Throughout my professional career, and especially in my current role as ICAO Secretary General, I have strongly advocated for the equal participation of both women and men in international aviation operations and decision-making.
10. But it is now more important than ever to advocate for gender equality, given the opportunities which are presenting themselves due to growth, attrition, and other factors.
11. This is particularly the case in highly-specialized industries like aviation, where women continue to be under-represented.
12. In 2016, ICAO's 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly adopted a Resolution establishing ICAO's Gender Equality Programme. This was achieved the following year, and in 2018 we moved forward again in convening the first ever Global Aviation Gender Summit.
13. At our 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly last year States were urged to drive this gender momentum further still, and in order that ICAO can continue to play a key role in these global efforts I have established this week a new *Joint Advisory Group on Gender Equality and Gender Equity*.
14. It's my expectation that the Advisory Group will help both ICAO and its States drive more rapid and aligned progress on the key gender equality targets we're pursuing, ultimately enhancing it across both our Organization and global aviation.
15. This joint event we've convened here today is part of a continuum of global activities celebrating *International Women's Day*.

16. I would highlight as well that 2020 is a very special year for gender equality, mainly as it marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Beijing Platform for Action* being implemented under the United Nations as a progressive global roadmap for gender equality.
17. It will also see ICAO convening the second Global Aviation Gender Summit this November, in collaboration with the government of Spain, and we will look forward to providing you with more information on its focus and intent as this coordination continues.
18. *Ladies and gentlemen,*
19. In concluding today, please let me reiterate how proud I am to be able to celebrate the achievements of women in aviation with you, and to reassure you all that there is a very promising future now awaiting us.
20. Thanks again for joining us today.