



**Leader Session remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Fang Liu
to the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit**

(Virtual pre-recorded remarks, 14 May 2021)

1. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone.
2. It's an honour to contribute to the very worthwhile efforts of the P4G initiative.
3. As we are all aware, the aviation sector is a pillar of global transport at the very center of our socio-economic development.
4. COVID-19 has presented profound challenges to the international community. And among its many impacts, international aviation has been especially hard hit.
5. This shut down has provided us with an important opportunity to build back better in terms of in-sector aviation sustainability, with many airlines re-evaluating traditional technologies and businesses approaches, and taking older, more emissions-intensive aircraft permanently out of service.
6. Solidarity in how we optimize these evolutions is essential, and I'm encouraged that governments have been continuing to collaborate with industry and civil society throughout the pandemic on the current and comprehensive ICAO environmental work programme.

7. Many are also maintaining ICAO State Action Plans to reduce national in-sector CO2 reductions, and I would call upon them to update these as a matter of urgency.
8. Governments can also do more by leveraging the pandemic bailouts they're providing to their national airlines by assuring that these funds come with clear sustainability strings attached.
9. ICAO has been conducting seminars to help drive awareness and momentum on in-sector CO₂ reductions, and I have been inspired by the high degree of innovation now being focused on the challenge of aviation sustainability.
10. This speaks to the fact that we can and must determine a sustainable path for air transport without sacrificing our shared connections to each other and our world.
11. Success will require us to efficiently and holistically assess the technology, financing, infrastructure, policy, and other important perspectives this work engages.
12. States representing 68% of the global economy and 61% of its emissions have already committed to net zero national targets by 2050, and as countries now explore a new Long Term Aspirational Goal for international flight emissions, I would invite them to take bold action through ICAO to meet our shared climate objectives to contribute to the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
13. Thank you.