



**Address by the Secretary General of ICAO  
Mr. Raymond Benjamin  
to the**

*ICAO Assistance for Action – Aviation and Climate Change Seminar  
(Montréal, 23 – 24 October 2012)*

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to see so many of you here this morning for the opening of the *ICAO Assistance for Action – Aviation and Climate Change Seminar*.

This meeting is indeed about action. It is about working together to identify sources of assistance to help States reduce the impact of international civil aviation on the environment, most critically on climate change.

As we know, time is of the essence. By 2030, we expect the number of commercial flights to double, from 30 million a year today to 60 million. That means a lot more aircraft producing a lot more greenhouse gas emissions unless we take concrete, concerted and coordinated action.

The 2010 ICAO Assembly made the need for this action very clear, when our Member States told us to make it easier for them to access new or existing financial, technological and capacity building resources to help them deal with climate change.

ICAO got right to work on a series of practical steps, producing guidance material for use in developing national Action Plans tailored to their specific circumstances and implementation capabilities.

We then held intensive workshops in each ICAO region, providing on-site training to assist States with emissions quantification and other measures supporting the development of their Action Plans.

As of today, 49 Member States, representing some 63 per cent of global international air traffic, have submitted their Action Plans to ICAO. Based on current updates, our hope is to reach 80 per cent by the end of the year.

ICAO's next step is to help our States turn their Plans into concrete action. The information they've provided on assistance requirements is an excellent area where we can begin supporting these implementation efforts, but more is needed, and that is why you are here today.

I realize that the agenda of the seminar is daunting, but so is the challenge we face. I ask you to remain focused throughout, as we explore a wide range of issues, including capacity building, new technologies such as sustainable alternative fuels, financing for emissions reduction initiatives, technology transfer and technical support, through ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau, for example.

Your round-table discussion on State perspectives will also be essential input at this juncture, if we are to succeed in addressing the global climate challenge.

Ladies and gentlemen, ICAO is committed to the sustainable development of air transport, as I know you are. I have been promoting a stronger emphasis on assistance since becoming Secretary General and the result has been extremely positive across all our programmes. With your help, we can achieve a similar outcome in our collaborative efforts to reduce the impacts of aviation on climate change.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you fruitful discussions.

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