



**Opening address by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Raymond Benjamin,
to the ICAO Fuelling Aviation with Green Technology Seminar**

(Montreal, 9 to 10 September 2014)

1. Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great pleasure to welcome you this morning to ICAO's *Fuelling Aviation with Green Technology* Seminar.
2. Since its inception, ICAO has worked hand in hand with aviation industry stakeholders, and has emphasized the value of a globally-harmonized approach to address aviation's environmental impacts.
3. Through these partnerships, the aviation sector has achieved remarkable success, to the extent that aircraft produced today are 80 per cent more fuel efficient and 75 per cent quieter than those produced at the dawn of the jet age in the 1960s.
4. No other transportation or major industrial sector can make a similar claim.
5. With the projected growth of aviation traffic in the future, it is essential to ensure through our actions today that subsequent generations can continue to enjoy the benefits of air transport tomorrow, and on an environmentally sustainable basis.

6. Last year at the 38th ICAO Assembly, our 191 Member States acknowledged the substantial progress being achieved by our Organization in all areas of its environmental protection activities. An important element of the progress achieved is the ongoing technical work undertaken by ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, or CAEP as we refer to it.
7. Comprised of experts from government, industry and other stakeholders, and under the direction of the ICAO Council, the CAEP has been at the forefront of the Organization's efforts to make technical and operational improvements that will pave the way for the environmentally sustainable future of aviation.
8. It has made a number of landmark achievements in its work on noise and emissions Standards, and is currently making excellent progress on the first ever CO₂ emissions Standard for aircraft. The Committee also has developed new tools and guidance to assess the environmental benefits of air transport operational improvements, as well as the methodologies to account for life-cycle CO₂ benefits and future projections for alternative fuels.
9. In this sense the CAEP represents a very good example of how public and private sector cooperation can lead to practical and meaningful success on our environmental challenges.
10. This Seminar is a first-of-its-kind for ICAO, exploring the future of aviation from an environmental perspective and across the full aircraft life-cycle: from design and manufacturing, to fuelling and in-flight and ground operations, and finally, to aircraft scrapping and recycling.

11. Indeed, all over the world today new perspectives and ideas are being developed into valuable new [MVI] technologies and procedures that will make our skies greener and our sector more sustainable.
12. One example of this remarkable creativity and innovation is the Solar Impulse. In this context I am pleased to announce that ICAO has officially concluded an agreement to serve as an Institutional and Aeronautical Partner for the Solar Impulse 2015 around-the-world solar flights, assisting with route development, overflight permissions, and other coordination with our Member States.
13. We are very proud to be providing this help, mainly as this initiative is illustrative of the innovative green technologies that play a key role in the basket of environmental protection measures that ICAO so strongly encourages.
14. Innovative concepts such as the Solar Impulse project provide us with a long-term vision for the development of zero-emission air transport vehicles, exactly the type of creative idea which this seminar has been expressly designed to promote discussion around.
15. But of course we aren't only here to discuss the potential of solar energy and aircraft. We must also appreciate that the use of drop-in biofuels has now become a reality in aviation, with a good number of airlines now using these fuels in commercial flights.

16. Likewise, hydrogen, wind, and geothermal energy are being employed to help minimize the carbon footprint of airports and airport operations around the world.
17. ICAO will continue to be at the forefront of international efforts to promote and facilitate the development and deployment of renewable energies in aviation, and of sustainable alternative fuels on a global scale.
18. We now find ourselves on a shared journey toward achieving carbon neutral growth from 2020, and I strongly believe that it will be by continuing to work together, and actively building partnerships, that we will ensure our progress and our success.
19. Together with ATAG, we will be showcasing some of these partnerships on the occasion of upcoming UN Climate Summit on 23 September, where ICAO will support and promote demonstration flights to New York using sustainable alternative fuels.
20. Cooperation has made our global aviation network what it is today, and it remains our most valuable asset. Building upon the amazing environmental record already achieved by aviation, it is time to explore our vision for its truly sustainable future.
21. Innovative ideas, green technologies and the use of renewable energies will inspire the work and research of the aviation sector, and its constant drive to move towards greater sustainability. On the occasion of ICAO's 70th anniversary this year, I cannot think of a brighter perspective from which to imagine our shared air transport future.

22. I wish you all a very productive and engaging Seminar.