



**Closing remarks by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Raymond Benjamin,
to the Second High-level Safety Conference**

(ICAO HQ, Montréal, Canada - 5 February 2015)

1. Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the end of a very successful Conference.
2. The Conference began with a comprehensive report on the progress made by our industry, at the global and (newly) at the regional level - by our Regional Aviation Safety Group Chairs. It has been a challenging path but I am pleased to say that over the last two years we have put in place, for the very first time, clear safety priorities and targets.
3. In every region. In every State. States have formed collaborative relationships with their industry partners, and are working ever closer together to address safety improvements at the regional level and local level. And we've made good progress toward achieving the targets. But as always, there is more to do.

4. We then took on some very complex subjects that required contributions from the community as well as open debate and discussion to determine the best path forward.
5. I have to say that I am really pleased at the level of engagement at this Conference and the willingness to share ideas for the benefit of all. The scope, complexity and impact of the issues discussed in this Hall required the collective inputs of all States and organizations in attendance.
6. The series of unusual and tragic accidents which took place last year brought renewed awareness and commitment to our community which has developed such an enviable safety record. It became imperative for us to take immediate action to address these unfortunate events. And we have done just that.

7. Together we have agreed:
 - a) to a Standard for global tracking;
 - b) to a comprehensive conflict zone risk mitigation work programme;
 - c) to develop a system to share critical safety information;
 - d) to enhance the support needed for States to achieve the objectives outlined in the GASP; and
 - e) to develop a centralized resource mobilization strategy to enhance assistance capabilities so that “no country will be left behind!”

8. The Conference Conclusions and Recommendations will guide us as we move ahead on planning for the future of aviation safety improvement. We thank you very much for that and I am certain that the Council will act upon this advice.

9. I would particularly bring to your attention that we have had all of our Regional Directors here to listen to everything you had to say. They will incorporate this mandate into their work programmes, taking into consideration the role of the Regional Aviation Safety Groups in achieving the regional targets. They are the ones that will be coming to knock on your door, not me.
10. With the outcomes of this Conference and those of the earlier Twelfth Air Navigation Conference, we are on a solid foundation with a clear direction for aviation safety and for air navigation capacity and efficiency for some years to come.
11. It is critical for ICAO to do this work, but we will need to prioritize our efforts and determine which tasks can be accomplished in the support of the GASP objectives. Of critical importance is your support to ensure that we have the resources to achieve the ambitious goals established by this Conference. I know I can count on you for that!

12. Your success in achieving the objectives of this Conference in such a short timeframe is indeed remarkable and for this, we are indebted to the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Gilberto Lopez Meyer, who has displayed strong leadership skills in taking us through the agenda. Thanks to the Secretariat for their dedication, and particularly to Nancy Graham, as these are her last few weeks of service with ICAO. They are truly international civil servants for aviation.
13. The whole world has seen in real time the results of all our efforts and deliberations to make aviation safer than ever.
14. Most importantly, thanks to you, for your dedication to aviation safety.
