



**Opening remarks  
by the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu  
to the Fourth ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS)  
and Sixth Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation (CIAT)**

*(Seoul, Republic of Korea, 8 May 2019)*

*Her Excellency, Minister Kim Hyun-mee*

*Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport*

*Distinguished Government and Industry Officials,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honour for me to be with you here today, in the Airport city of Incheon, and to provide these opening remarks to this Fourth ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS) and Sixth Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation (CIAT).

On behalf of ICAO, and all of you present here today as well, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government and

the good people of the Republic of Korea for the excellent facilities and very gracious hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

This is the very first time that ICAO has conducted its Air Transport Symposium outside of its Montreal Headquarters.

The simultaneous hosting of the symposium, alongside the Republic of Korea's Sixth Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation, emphasizes our Organization's continuing determination to closely collaborate with our Member States in the development of international air transport Standards and policies.

Aviation today has become such an essential component of our global society. It is a crucial driver of economic, social and cultural development, in every world region. It generates more than 65-and-a-half million jobs worldwide, while contributing more than 2.7 trillion dollars to global GDP.

The preliminary traffic figures for 2018 now at our disposal show that more than 38 million international flights last year carried

some 4.3 billion passengers and 57 million tonnes of freight to their worldwide destinations and these figures are poised to double in just the next 15-20 years, based on ICAO forecasts.

An important adjunct to these impressive global indicators is that the airlines of the Asia and Pacific region have consistently recorded higher-than-world-average passenger growth over the last decade.

In addition, this region's carriers presently transport 40 per cent of combined world air freight – the highest such percentage for any world region.

It is expected that the Asia Pacific will remain ICAO's fastest growing air transport region in terms of passenger and freight traffic growth, through at least 2035.

These accomplishments are made possible through our collective commitment to work together through ICAO, and to sustain and improve upon air transport's many remarkable performances and attributes.

This pertains not only to aviation's overall safety and security performance, but also the unmatched speed and efficiency by which it provides such fundamental support for 21st Century consumer needs including e-commerce.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

ICAO appreciates its Member States efforts to pursue continuous liberalization and more open skies, as well as their complementary initiatives to establish and promote stable and effective regulatory environments through compliance, with ICAO standards and policies.

While some States have preferred protectionist rather than liberalized airspace approaches, it is noteworthy that the vast majority of countries which have embraced liberalization have enjoyed rapid traffic growth and its accompanying, and significant, socio-economic benefits.

However a truly multilateral approach to international air transport liberalization, especially regarding the exchange of traffic

rights on a multilateral basis, remains an outstanding ambition in the world today.

I will recall here that when the *Chicago Convention* was adopted, the *International Air Transport Agreement of 1944* was also opened for signature. This Agreement is currently in force among only 11 States, although its provisions are rather simple and are still relevant for use in exchanging traffic rights.

This is why in line with the *ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization*, we will continue to assist States in their liberalization objectives, as well as with the modernization and harmonization of their regulatory regimes on a multilateral level.

In moving forward, ICAO's goal is therefore to accommodate and reconcile the political positions of each State as much as possible. In this regard, we conducted a survey earlier this year to collate States' positions on liberalization of market access, air carrier ownership and control, as well as air cargo services.

At the same time, efforts are also being made to increase the momentum toward the development of a robust, flexible and broad-based multilateral framework for air transport liberalization, with the overall objective of achieving enhanced air connectivity, expanded passenger and cargo market access, seamless travel with more competitive pricing and passenger friendly airports, as well as optimizing the socio-economic contributions of aviation.

We appreciate that as liberalization progresses, the aviation operating environment will become more competitive and market driven, this, in turn, creates the need for increased protection for the rights of passengers. The ICAO Assembly therefore endorsed in 2016 a set of high-level core principles on consumer protection, to guide both States and industry as they seek to adopt mutually agreed regulations and practices that are consistent at the global level.

Air Transport is the safest mode of transport and we are conscious of the need to retain the confidence of the travelling public, as regards aviation safety, security and environmental performance. In this

regard, we are determined to work with our Member States and industry stakeholders to ensure that the rapid growth of our sector continues in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.

Accordingly, we have developed ICAO Global Plans for Aviation Safety, Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, and Aviation Security, with clear performance objectives and targets. These are currently helping States in Asia and the Pacific and around the world to identify and address their prioritized needs on the basis of the aligned global approaches which a worldwide network absolutely demands.

Furthermore, ICAO coordinates and provides under its acclaimed *No Country Left Behind* (NCLB) initiative more direct assistance to developing countries. Its focus on capacity building toward improved ICAO compliance has already demonstrated its value, and I urge all Member States to please take full advantage of this assistance as they work to attain current Global Plan targets.

Further important contributions are made through the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, notably in support

of identity management practices, visa and travel document facilitation, and ultimately the freer and more secure movement of people and goods across this Region.

Regarding the environment, I wish to recall the historic adoption, by the last ICAO Assembly in 2016, of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, or CORSIA, the first of its kind by any global industry.

Our sector is also the first to adopt a global standard for certification for aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions. These are in addition to other ambitious reduction measures covering air navigation efficiency and aircraft operational improvements and the use of sustainable aviation fuels.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate the leadership which Korea has demonstrated by signing-on as an early and voluntary participant in ICAO's CORSIA and for its support to our capacity building activities to ensure CORSIA's effective take off in 2021.

This commitment is very important, both to CORSIA's successful launch and its long-term success, and ICAO is grateful to Korea for setting such a strong example of sound aviation environmental stewardship. I wish to also appreciate Korea's overall support for the NCLB including through its Fellowship Training Programme for Developing Countries.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Since 2015, ICAO has also been organizing World Aviation Forum (IWAF) events, with the first series of these importantly focused on approaches to maximize aviation benefits and explore new means of mobilizing dependable long-term financial resources for aviation development, especially toward new or modernized aviation infrastructure.

However, the Fifth IWAF this year – will instead be focusing on the incredible era of innovation and transformation, which air transport is now experiencing.

Many future-leaning topics of interest to aviation leaders and strategists will be discussed at this event and at its accompanying Innovation Fair and Exhibition, such as new applications for Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence in air transport, urban mobility and drones, and even hypersonic and sub-orbital flight.

The focus will also be on related challenges faced by aviation regulators and standards-setters, for instance to ensure that new entrants in air transport are being effectively engaged and not impeded by outdated processes or requirements.

The IWAF/5 and Innovation Fair are part of the celebratory activities for ICAO's 75th Anniversary and will take place just prior to the 40th Assembly, on 22 and 23 September 2019 and I look forward to your participation.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that this year's ICAO Air Services Negotiation, or 'ICAN' event, will be conducted from 2 to 6 December in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

In concluding now, let me please reiterate that ICAO will continue to serve as the leading venue through which States can exchange perspectives and ideas relating to international aviation, and that it is by working together that we can ensure that the aviation industry meets the needs of current and future generation.

I wish to once again thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, and particularly its Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT), for hosting this very important symposium. Your work here will be very helpful to our related discussions at the 40th ICAO Assembly this September/October.

Thank you and I wish you all a very engaging and informative event.

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