



## *Aviation gender equality explored at joint ICAO, IATA, ACI #IWD 2021 Women in Leadership High-level Dialogue*

For immediate release

**Montréal, 8 March 2021** – Recognizing the exemplary gender equality commitments of States, and related progress being achieved through the United Nations’ *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Beijing Declaration, and Platform for Action*, ICAO’s first woman Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu, opened ICAO’s #IWD 2021 Women in Leadership High-level Dialogue today by noting that despite these advances, “gender inequalities remain persistent in our societies and within various sectors, with gains being far from consistent,” and that “international air transport is unfortunately no exception to this rule.”

The #IWD 2021 special aviation event was co-organized by ICAO this year with the Airports Council International (ACI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

In line with this year’s UN Women IWD theme of “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”, the event’s panel discussions celebrated the tremendous historic and present-day efforts and contributions of women in the aviation sector.

The high-level panellists also interactively explored insights on the challenges and opportunities for women created by the COVID-19 pandemic, on how all sustainability relies on greater empowerment of women, and on the importance of planning for and prioritizing a more gender equal and equitable global pandemic and aviation sector recovery.

Panel 1 of the 2021 IWD dialogues featured the participation of **Ms. Poppy Khoza**, Director, South African Civil Aviation Authority; **Eng. Angie Ahmed Abdallah Mostafa Elyazzy**, Representative of Egypt on the ICAO Council; **Mr. Samuel Lucas**, Representative of Australia on the ICAO Council; **Ms. Jane Hoskisson**, Director, Talent, Learning, Engagement and Diversity, IATA; and **Ms. Catherine Guillemart-Dias**, Vice-President and General Manager Canada, Air France KLM.

Panel 2 featured **Lic. Paola Tamburelli**, Administrator, National Administration of Civil Aviation, Argentina; **Ms. Isabel Maestre Moreno**, Executive Director, Spanish Aviation Safety and Security Agency (AESA); **Dr. Shefali Juneja**, Representative of India on the ICAO Council; **Ms. Nina Brooks**, Vice President, Security, Facilitation and Innovation, Airport Council, International (ACI); and **Ms. Candace S. McGraw**, Chief Executive Officer, Kenton County Airport Board Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

Recognizing that some of the most efficient and exemplary civilian responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have been overseen by women leaders, that women in aviation and other sectors have been disproportionately affected by its negative impacts, and that global populations today want to see more equal representation among women and men in both public and private leadership roles. Dr. Liu and the panellists emphasized the importance of finding ways to reimagine and rebuild a world that serves everyone.

She and the panellists also addressed the challenges of lingering cultural barriers, gender bias, and gender stereotypes, calling for increased culture change and bolder targets for equal representation, including new policies for gender quotas. Dr. Liu noted in particular how flexible working arrangements now being adopted could help more women address their significant work-

life balance responsibilities, and applauded the ICAO Council's adoption of a new Declaration aimed at improving gender representation in ICAO's governing and technical bodies.

In closing the event, ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano welcomed the high enthusiasm among the men and women of the current ICAO Council on gender equality priorities, both in terms of the composition of the governing and technical bodies of ICAO, and the challenges facing the aviation sector more broadly.

He also appreciated that the day's discussions had identified key areas for future focus, including good governance and enabling policies, improvements in collecting and analysing data, cultural evolution, and stronger advocacy.

"All of us have a personal role to play in fostering positive change in the world, and I myself remain committed to ensuring that the ICAO Council continues to play its part," he concluded.



## Resources for Editors

[ICAO-ACI-IATA International Women's Day High-level Dialogue](#)  
[ICAO's Women in Aviation](#)

### About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters. Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized. ICAO forums also provide opportunities for advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially recognized air transport stakeholders.

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