



**Opening Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the ICAO Security Week 2023: AVSEC & CYBERSEC  
ICAO HQ, Montréal, Canada, 23 to 27 October 2023**

*(Pre-recorded Opening Remarks, 23 October 2023)*

*Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my honour and pleasure to open this ICAO Security Week 2023: AVSEC & CYBERSEC.

I would have liked to welcome you in person, unfortunately, due to previous commitments on institutional missions, I am welcoming you virtually.

This week, you will have a unique opportunity to explore aviation security, cybersecurity and other related emerging issues.

ICAO Security Week 2023 brings together leaders and key decision-makers to discuss the complex security challenges facing the aviation sector and the best ways to address them.

ICAO is honoured to welcome distinguished keynote speakers and expert panelists, and I am confident that the variety and quality of their insights and perspectives will greatly enrich our understanding of the challenges ahead of us.

Over the next week, you will explore both obstacles and opportunities to ensuring the resilience of civil aviation's critical infrastructure against current, new, and emerging threats. These talks will create a timely opportunity for an open dialogue among all aviation stakeholders on core security topics such as conflict zones, cargo security, and human factors.

In addition to these core security topics, you will also look at emerging and evolving security-related topics such as cybersecurity, unmanned and remotely piloted aircraft systems, and major disruptions caused by airport breaches.

Emphasis will be placed this week on the implementation of new technologies and innovative processes and solutions, and the need to strengthen cooperation across different governmental agencies in tandem.

I invite you to reflect on the complexity of the landscape of the discussions before you, and encourage you to share your perspectives for the creation of robust frameworks that ensure the safety, security and resilience of air travel.

Your active participation and knowledge sharing can foster dialogue on ways to develop effective and adaptable aviation security policies that align with this rapidly changing security landscape.

This holds particular significance as air traffic is projected to approach pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year, thus heightening the urgency for our sector to prioritize safety and security.

The exhibition outside the meeting hall and the multiple side events and workshops scheduled during Security Week also provide important opportunities for you to carry this work forward.

On that point, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation at this time to all exhibitors, sponsors, and presenters for their important contribution to this event.

Let me also welcome those who are following the discussions online, as the ICAO Security Week is being broadcast live on ICAO TV.

In closing now, I would like to reiterate that ICAO is eager to consider your insights on how we can assist with coordinating advances in the Aviation Security and Cybersecurity fields more rapidly, so that the benefits can be seen much sooner.

With that, I wish you fruitful and constructive discussions.

Thank you.