For almost five decades now, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been at the forefront of aviation environmental issues. During this time, we have worked cooperatively with a wide variety of stakeholders, driving positive progress on emissions reduction and assisting States to address aviation’s environmental impacts through globally-harmonized approaches.

Delivering on an ambitious environmental agenda in response to the mandate received from its Member States, ICAO has evolved its environmental activities into a broader, truly global vision for greener air transport. Sustainable development is at the heart of our strategy, and serves to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the wide-ranging benefits of safe and secure air transport on an environmentally responsible basis.

Turning this vision into action, ICAO’s current Strategic Objectives contribute to 13 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and our Environmental work programme alone contributes to ten of them. Adopted by world leaders in September 2015, the UN SDGs are our common roadmap to transform our world beyond 2030, and global air transport connectivity is an essential enabler for many of them. ICAO is committed to leading international aviation efforts towards the attainment of the UN SDGs, and this 2016 ICAO Environmental Report is a clear reflection of our dedication to delivering tangible results. On-Board a Sustainable Future sets a strong foundation for more forward-looking policies and better preparedness on our environmental challenges, while helping to increase awareness globally of how aviation’s benefits are essential to the realization of truly sustainable civil societies.

An important part of my mission as Secretary General of ICAO is to convey this message to our partners, within and outside the United Nations family, in order to help inspire others and demonstrate how tangible solutions to our environmental challenges can be successfully implemented, provided the right framework for action is set. This framework should undoubtedly facilitate partnerships and pave the way for future innovation – key priorities on our shared path to a more sustainable future and the full realization of the UN SDGs.

ICAO is proud to be playing an important part in this endeavour, and we are grateful to the many partners who are cooperating with us on this journey.

Dr. Fang Liu
Secretary General