

Message from the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The Triennium in Review: Aviation at the Crossroads

This triennium was both outstanding and challenging for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the worldwide aviation sector. An ambitious environmental agenda in ICAO strongly linked to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been substantially advanced over the last three years under the Air Transport Bureau's Environment Branch. These United Nations SDGs adopted under the ambitious and transformative Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, are our common roadmap toward a sustainable future for the aviation sector.

The latest 2021 Climate Report from the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), revealed that climate change is growing at an alarming rate, demanding more action inside and outside the aviation sector. As highlighted by the United Nations Secretary General, the recent IPCC Climate Report is a 'Code Red for Humanity', stressing the 'irrefutable' evidence of human influence. Under the mandate given by its 193 Member States, ICAO undertook bold actions to address the climate change.

Since the last session of the ICAO Assembly, held in October 2019, one of the major endeavors was to complete a report on the feasibility of a global Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for CO₂ emissions reduction in international aviation. This report is, to date, the most comprehensive,



inclusive and transparent report on this matter. Almost 300 experts from all over the world, United Nations bodies, environmental NGOs, aviation and energy industry representatives, to mention some, were part of the report's development. It was approved by consensus and made publicly available free of charge to ensure that all States and stakeholders could consider its findings as the basis of further consideration on the feasibility of an LTAG.

In line with the ICAO "No Country Left Behind" initiative, ICAO has also successfully conducted regional LTAG Global Aviation Dialogues (GLADs) to keep its 193 States well-informed for the subsequent discussions at the High-Level Meeting on LTAG, and at the 41st Session of the ICAO

Assembly in September of 2022, when a decision on an LTAG is expected.

Despite the most serious and disruptive global health crisis in several generations, the COVID19 pandemic, aviation has the opportunity to build back better towards a sustainable decarbonized future. ICAO recognizes that innovation is key to achieving this goal, and the ICAO stocktaking process and complementary innovation focused seminars held in 2020 and 2021, unlocked and showcased many revolutionary and innovative solutions being developed inside and outside the sector. These solutions have the potential to transform our industry in a way and at a pace never seen before. ICAO and Member States were also very inspired by the various initiatives and commitments to a net zero aviation future even prior to the Organization's consideration of an LTAG.

To make this green transition a reality, the aviation community will need broader and deeper international cooperation in various areas, such as supportive policies, investments, certification, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Green finance access by aviation will be key. In parallel with intense outreach and capacity-building, ICAO is ready to assist States in the preparation of national action plans on CO₂ emissions reduction in light of the future decisions to be made on LTAG and beyond.

As ICAO strives to exceed the expectations set by its Member States in addressing global concerns on environmental protection, its commitment to develop timely, robust and effective measures to reduce the impact of international civil aviation on the environment, from noise, local air quality, and climate change has never been so strong. The world remains connected by aviation, and to reach our mutual goals, ICAO calls for further cooperation between the States and all stakeholders worldwide to ensure that we remain connected and increase sustainable air transport in the years to come.

Juan Carlos Salazar
Secretary General, ICAO