



**Opening remarks
by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO),
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the 1st Airport Safety Programme Graduation Ceremony**

(Virtual session, 10 November 2021)

1. It's a real pleasure for me to join you today, and to have this opportunity to congratulate our new Airport Safety Professional graduates under the Global ACI-ICAO ASP Designation Programme.
2. This is an incredible period of transformation in the air transport sector, with aircraft design and airport-based passenger facilitation poised to undergo some very rapid evolutions in the years ahead.
3. These transformations in operations, propulsion types, and contactless screening and travel for more health sensitive travelers, will have significant implications for today's airports.
4. They will also be very critical to how aviation builds back better as we accelerate the recovery now underway.
5. This underscores how critical it is for airport providers to be delivering robust, consistent, and enforceable safety protocols to ensure the well-being of airport customers and personnel.
6. It also highlights that we're on the threshold of a very exciting and dynamic new era of global aviation, and one where the role of Airport Safety Professionals will be critical to reaching our objectives.
7. This new designation programme marks the second collaboration between ICAO and ACI to train tomorrow's airport leaders, following on the very successful 'AMPAP' Programme.
8. Its main objective is to equip State regulators and airport operations personnel with increased proficiency in ICAO-compliant airport airside management and operations, while maintaining ACI industry best practices and building key safety training capacity.
9. We view the ASP Designation Programme as being key to equipping the next generation of airport safety leaders with the tools and insights they need, we also appreciate your diplomas as a clear testament to your commitment to lifelong learning and skills development.

10. I applaud you all for your dedication and initiative in taking this step, and wish you all continued success on your professional journeys!
11. Thank you.