



**Closing remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) Event**

(Bogotá, Colombia - 10 December 2021)

1. I would like to express ICAO's gratitude to the Government and people of Colombia for the hospitality we have enjoyed since our arrival in the beautiful and historic city of Bogota.
2. The dedication and hard work of Director General Fajardo and his team in supporting this event has contributed immensely to its success.
3. In particular, it was delightful to share some Colombian culture during the Aviation Day commemorations on Tuesday.
4. I also would like to thank all representatives from States and International Organizations, who notwithstanding the threats of new travel restrictions assured their attendance at this event.
5. The participation of 70 States with 317 delegations in-person here, and 170 virtually, has been a big part of our success at this year's ICAN.

6. This diversity of participation is a clear indication of the strong commitment we share to adapt and evolve, and to not only build back the air transport industry, but to build it back better to be more resilient against future challenges.
7. I would like to reiterate and reemphasize that the work you undertook during this week is critical to all aspects of ICAO's current air transport recovery objectives, as well as to the future sustainable growth and resilience we are working so hard to achieve in terms of international aviation's post-COVID environment.
8. It was encouraging to hear related priorities highlighted so clearly during your round-table discussions, including the liberalization of market access, a flexible operational environment for air cargo services, and wider access to capital markets for airlines by relaxing ownership and control restrictions.
9. I congratulate you all for the successful negotiations and agreements you have reached in the last five days, and I wish to reassure you that ICAO will remain steadfast in working to achieve the ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization.

10. We will also develop practical solutions to emerging regulatory challenges of global importance, complementing your own efforts to assure that the arrangements concluded this week are supported by effective regulatory practices and good governance.
11. Pursuant to Article 83 of the Chicago Convention, I also would like to urge States to register the agreements concluded during this year's ICAN with ICAO. A new web-based interface has been developed for this purpose and it makes this process easier and more convenient than ever.
12. In concluding, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous effort made by my Secretariat colleagues in organizing this event; and to inform you that in keeping with its regional hosting rotation, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has graciously offered to host the next ICAN meeting in Abuja, in December 2022.
13. I would now like to invite the Director General Fajardo to the podium to receive the ICAO certificate for Colombia's successfully hosting the thirteenth edition of the ICAN event [Certificate is presented].

Distinguished Friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

14. I wish you all a safe journey back home, happy holidays, and declare ICAN 2021 officially closed.

15. Thank you and "*Viajes Seguros*".