



**Closing remarks by
ICAO Secretary General
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
to the XXIV Ordinary Assembly of the
Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)**

(Montevideo, Uruguay, 25 March 2022)

1. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.
2. I would like to begin by expressing my praise and appreciation for the tremendous work and results this meeting has achieved.
3. As we look toward the peak travel season ahead, and all of the potential it holds to reconnect our world, I think it's critical that we continue to work together to encourage the continued rationalization and relaxation of national travel and entry restrictions.
4. I'm encouraged by the global improved management of the pandemic, and that there is *significant* pent-up travel and tourism demand which could have some very positive impacts on passenger volumes in the months ahead.
5. This can only be taken full advantage of, however, if we continue to demonstrate solidarity and commitment to our shared recovery objectives.
6. I am greatly encouraged therefore that **a first key outcome of this event** has been its recommendations on the economic means of supporting Pan-American aviation stakeholders, in both the public and private sectors, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.
7. In the same recovery context, it is also vital that LACAC States now pursue the expanded regional application of digital solutions for seamless and contactless travel. Health-conscious travellers will increasingly expect this as part of air travel's new normal.

8. Similar recovery priorities are being addressed at ICAO's 41st Session of the Assembly to be held later this year, including on the implementation of the Facilitation Stream recommendations of our High-level Conference on COVID-19 held in October last year.
9. Some specifics here include the implementation of interoperable health certificates with ICAO Visible Digital Seal for Non-Constrained Environments (VDS-NC) authentication, wider use of the ICAO Health Master List to secure the information in these certificates, and more generally the determined and accelerated evolution toward the full digitization of traveller identities and border controls.
10. **Another key outcome** you have identified here this week is to incentivize the development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF).
11. Loan guarantees, capital grants, and supply chain research and development (R&D) are just some of the practical solutions to be pursued toward this objective.
12. ICAO can contribute to this effort through the capacity-building programmes and extensive guidance material on SAF which we have already made available to States.
13. We are also developing a new Assistance, Capacity-building and training in SAF "ACT-SAF" initiative, a similar concept to ACT-CORSIA, which will improve this capacity building still further, through more targeted assistance and training to help States deliver on their SAF objectives.
14. I invite LACAC States to take full advantage of these opportunities, and to work with ICAO and the rest of the global aviation community to ramp up global production capacity and optimize the significant emissions reduction potential of SAF.
15. ICAO is profoundly grateful for the partnership and collaboration which informs everything that LACAC and ICAO aspire to, and I was therefore also pleased to see that **a third key outcome** of this 24th Assembly will see LACAC contributions to ICAO becoming more efficient and effective.
16. By updating and formalizing your mechanisms of collaboration and monitoring, before, during and after ICAO engagements, and integrating the use of new technologies, I think that the leadership and vision of LACAC will be better appreciated and realize improved results at the global level.

17. I have mentioned several expectations from the upcoming ICAO 41st Assembly in the course of appreciating your progress here this week, but there will be other agreements we'll be looking for besides, a few of which I will highlight here today.
18. In the areas of Safety and Air Navigation for example we will be seeking important State endorsements on new and revised targets for the next editions of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP).
19. And for the Global Aviation Safety Plan in particular, we are seeking to officially incorporate some HLCC recommendations relating to the impact of global aviation disruption events and the need for greater safety resilience.
20. In the Security area we are also asking during the Assembly for States to endorse 2023 as the Year of Facilitation Culture, in addition to agreement on the key elements of the ICAO TRIP Strategy and the regulatory framework now needed for the collection and analyses of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.
21. And in the Economic Development domain we will be seeking the clear recognition of aviation as a powerful enabler for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and one which needs to be placed at the centre of national strategies to fully realize its socio-economic benefits.
22. With respect to this Economic Development priority, we should take into account that before aviation can be properly integrated into national economic planning, a well-defined Civil Aviation Master Plan must be established as a foundation.
23. I therefore wish to applaud the successes of States such as Brazil, Colombia and Peru in the development and implementation of their respective civil aviation planning, and to encourage other LACAC States to follow their examples.
24. ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau was of tremendous assistance to Peru in this regard, and they should be looked to if your State needs assistance in making progress on this key aviation strategic planning priority.
25. In concluding today I wish to also draw attention to the expectation that your Regional Air Navigation Plan will be ready prior to the ICAO Assembly, and ask that this be tended to as a matter of priority.

26. I would also encourage LACAC States to re-assess current State Safety Programme implementation challenges, and consider a more holistic regional approach to help prevent local complications from impeding our attainment of regional and global targets.
27. It's my hope that our Assembly this September will benefit from the increasing recovery momentum generated over the coming travel season, and that it will be very well-attended by all States and serve as a key symbol of the renewal of global connectivity.
28. Aviation has connected us throughout this pandemic in numerous and critical ways, but it has so much more to offer the world and we must continue to work together to see its recovery and potential fulfilled.
29. The LACAC States have historically showcased the great achievements in regional aviation development through innovative initiatives and programmes, and I encourage the upcoming Assembly be no exception for promotion and sharing of the best practices and lessons learned.
30. I look forward to the SRVSOP Board Meeting which follows this event, and encourage you all to join us there for its discussions.
31. Thank you.