



**Recorded Remarks by ICAO Secretary General  
Juan Carlos Salazar  
to the 11th Pan-American Aviation Safety Summit**

*(Sao Paulo, Brazil, 6 June 2022)*

1. I wish to express special recognition to the Government of Brazil for hosting this year's Summit.
2. Despite the fact that I am providing these remarks virtually, due to my commitments as the Secretary to the ICAO Council which is currently in session, I would like to underscore that your in-person presence represents another very important step toward putting this pandemic behind us and reconnecting the world.
3. ICAO's latest analyses reveal clear signs of a strong global recovery in air traffic, characterized by increasing States, airlines and public confidence in air travel, and a range of regional improvements in the facilitation of air transport by reducing and removing restrictions and requirements.
4. The number of passengers carried from January to April 2022 increased by 65% compared to the same period in 2021, while aircraft flight departures increased by 30%.
5. Airline flight seat capacity grew by 32% during the same period, and with continuing supportive conditions for travel demand, ICAO is projecting a stronger overall recovery this year compared to last.
6. These recovery indicators are highly encouraging, especially when we consider what re-opened travel, trade and tourism markets, and other positive economic and sustainability benefits, mean for businesses and societies in the Americas.
7. There is still much to be done, however, and I look forward to the point when we can announce the full recoveries of air transport in all world regions.

8. ICAO's ongoing efforts to work with States and industry to reconnect the world continue at pace, and for ICAO's 41st Assembly this September we've established 'Innovation' and 'Resilience' as the co-themes, with sustainability being a guiding consideration underlying each.
9. We expect some important decisions from States on how to prioritize current efforts to digitize a contactless travel experience, and to promote more efficient assessments and standardization of the latest innovations in aircraft design and propulsion now taking place.
10. Clearly it's critical for economies and supply chains everywhere today that air transport collaboration among governments and industry is reinforced.
11. We also need to assure that our global community builds off current momentum toward a full return to pre-pandemic flight levels, even as parallel environmental and digital transformation progress continues to be made.
12. Aviation safety underscores everything we accomplish in air transport, and during the pandemic the global accident rate decreased as the total number of flights was curtailed.
13. We should not forget, however, that between 2016 and 2019 the number of accidents annually showed a steady increase, and that as recovery proceeds, and traffic volumes increase again, safety management and safety performance will be critical to recovery success.
14. We've noted that the accident rate increased from 2 to 2.7 in 2021 with the higher rates of traffic being seen, and I'd suggest that part of 'building back better' post-pandemic should be about curtailing and reversing that trend.
15. Another priority should be the mental health of the pilots and skilled professionals who have borne so much of the pandemic's burden, and are now being called upon again to shoulder the traffic recovery.
16. We issued a notice at the onset of the pandemic drawing attention to these concerns, and we will continue to actively review the framework and associated guidance material to support mental health and safe human performance in aviation, no matter the situation and irrespective of the cause.
17. Pan America has been a leading safety region in the world for some time now, being the very first, for example, to implement a Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-PA).

18. The collaborative RASG-PA framework has since become invaluable as a model for other world regions, and it continues to make essential contributions toward the identification and mitigation of regional safety risks.
19. We should also appreciate here the value of the coordination established between the RASG-PA and Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS), which has translated into important joint projects and horizontal cooperation activities for the benefit of operational safety, capacity and efficiency, and also the environment.
20. Joint efforts undertaken between the ICAO NACC and SAM offices have also contributed importantly to these outcomes, and we are honoured to be contributing to your outcomes.
21. This region has also adopted a data-driven, project based- model for prioritizing risk mitigation activities, including the safety dashboards now monitoring the level of implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).
22. This is of tremendous benefit to analysis and resource allocation, and to assuring that we continue to drive safety improvement in Pan-America efficiently and cost-effectively.
23. The resumption of the Pan American Aviation Safety Summit this year is another important sign on the road to aviation recovery, and an irreplaceable opportunity for States, industry and users to exchange their ideas and enhance collaboration.
24. This coordination is a 'must' in our efforts to maintain a proactive approach on managing safety, and to keep all stakeholders actively engaged and committed.
25. In concluding today, I'd like to express how encouraged I was to see that 12 Pan-American States have now implemented and benefitted from the ICAO Aviation Safety Risk Management Implementation Package (i-Pack).
26. I also wish to applaud the performance of Pan-American countries with respect to their organization and commitment in responding to the events of the pandemic.

27. Reconnecting the world to bring connectivity and prosperity back to global societies is a noble cause now before us all, and how we coordinate together to manage safety risks alongside rapid traffic growth will be a key challenge in the months ahead.
28. ICAO is tremendously grateful to have the RASG-PA as an example of how efficiently and effectively safety can be managed and contributed to by States, and we will look forward to the outcomes of your coming discussions during this Summit.
29. Thank you.