



**Video message  
by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,  
to the TEMASEK Ecosperity Week 2022**

*(Pre-recorded 1 June for 7 June 2022)*

1. It's an honour for me to address this 'Ecosperity' panel session on the "Flight Path to Net Zero Aviation".
2. I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Lim Boon Heng and TEMASEK for the invitation to contribute to your coming discussions.
3. As international air traffic continues its ascent back to pre--pandemic levels, associated calls to curb and eliminate aviation carbon emissions have become louder and more urgent.
4. UN Secretary General Guterres has gone so far as to describe the latest IPCC/6 Assessment Report as a "Code Red for Humanity", and all countries and industry sectors now clearly have to act.
5. Just two weeks ago, I attended the 2022 edition of the 'Aviation Net-Zero Dialogue', organized by the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG).
6. While air transport has been widely recognized in the past as a 'hard-to-decarbonize' sector, it really feels to me like the conversation has shifted. We're focusing much less on the percentage of global emissions that aviation contributes – the "only 2% of global emissions" message is just not good enough anymore. In this regard, it's great to see that the focus is much more on what we can and must do about it. Industry, as you may already know, or will certainly hear more about today, has already adopted a 2050 target for achieving Net-zero carbon emissions from air transport.
7. This clearly underscores the complementary importance of national governments adopting a long-term global aspirational decarbonization goal for international aviation, through ICAO, which is equally ambitious and achievable.

8. This is something we will be working very hard at over the coming months, firstly as we host countries for an advance high-level meeting on this topic next month at ICAO (HLM LTAG), and then secondly when they attend our 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly this September to officially formalize their latest consensus. Those events will be key upcoming steps in this global process where we will be seeking our Member States commitments and very active engagement.
9. I was asked to address you today on how important collaboration will be to global success in decarbonizing air transport.
10. First, I wish to underscore that a unified multilateral approach, comprising the public and private sectors *and* recognized civil society groups, will be absolutely fundamental to decreasing, and eventually eliminating, climate-harmful emissions from powered flight.
11. ICAO's role over the decades has led to it becoming the natural nexus for global coordination on aviation objectives.
12. By helping such diverse players establish consensus on the very complex technical, geopolitical, and socio-economic issues which air transport impacts, we've also been able to establish a uniquely effective platform for global coordination, agreement, and progress.
13. Secondly, ICAO is also being much more active today in enhancing this interface between governments and industry, and in leveraging the opportunities which new connections present for increased public- and private-sector partnership, efficiency, and results.
14. Part of that work is seeing us developing new coalitions, giving a voice at the table to global youth, and also transforming ourselves to become faster and more effective at helping States and industry assess, standardize, and integrate the latest aviation innovations.
15. Innovation is obviously seen as critical to this challenge because clearly it's in no one's interest to curtail connecting the peoples, and markets, and supply chains of the world as we work to achieve our climate objectives.
16. That statement recognizes the fact that ICAO-compliant air mobility and connectivity is deeply relied upon by many countries and industries, for their most basic economic viability.

17. And in the case of governments especially, that aviation prosperity affords them the opportunity to invest in and realize more sustainable long-term systems and solutions for their citizens and societies, in numerous *non-transport-related* areas of need.
18. This is exactly why air transport has been appreciated as being fundamental to helping States achieve 15 of the 17 UN SDGs, as presently being pursued around the world under *Agenda 2030*. Global Aviation Recovery, Aviation Sustainability and Inclusive Innovation were clearly advanced during the recent Changi Aviation Summit organized by Singapore's Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore last month. ICAO was proud to participate and to support the joint statement adopted during the Summit.

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19. Third, allow me to highlight some specific contributions that ICAO has enabled in the field of sustainability. Much of air transport's near-term response to the climate challenge will rely on lower-carbon and Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), advanced aircraft technology, more efficient operations and technology, and the global offsetting under the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).
20. For those of you who may not be aware, CORSIA was adopted by States through ICAO in 2016, and it represents the very first multilateral offsetting framework designed to mitigate carbon emitted by an industry sector in international territory.
21. We've been greatly encouraged that the number of States volunteering to participate in CORSIA's launch stage continues to steadily increase (now with 111 participant States), and ICAO is being very active in encouraging other States to join as soon as possible.
22. Looking beyond the near-term, air transport will need to decarbonize entirely. That means zero emissions aircraft operations, and a new reliance on cleaner forms of energy.
23. This is where innovation is now so incredibly poised, whether in terms of hydrogen and battery breakthroughs, or entirely new types of materials and aircraft designs, to bring new and truly sustainable solutions to our skies.
24. ICAO continues to encourage aviation and cleaner energy innovators to come together to discuss and share their progress at the regular stocktaking events we've organized.

25. I would be remiss not to underscore here ICAO's deep appreciation for the joint and related efforts now being undertaken by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and TEMASEK on a new Singapore SAF pilot project.
26. This initiative is benefitting from further partnerships among Singapore Changi Airport and various airlines and fuel suppliers, and is an excellent example of what the world and ICAO are now expecting from government and private sector leaders as we work collaboratively in partnerships to resolve this various serious challenge for current and future generations.
27. Singapore is also exploring the possibility of SAF 'Green Lanes' with other interested States, and Singapore Airlines has recently signed a Global Sustainable Aviation Fuel Declaration, working together with other industry stakeholders to increase the uptake of SAF in the coming decades.
28. As seen by these examples, the engagement of the full ecosystem of aviation stakeholders will be critical to advancing technological innovation, creating new economic opportunities, and contributing to the industry's Net-zero carbon emissions targets.
29. ICAO has also taken the lead on promoting capacity-building initiatives and partnerships, recognizing that many States who are determined to take action need both technical and financial support in order to succeed. We are proud of the success of the ACT CORSIA initiative and we are also preparing to launch a similar ACT SAF capacity building initiative, in which we count on the support of Singapore as a leading country in the field of SAF.
30. In concluding, I wish to emphasize that while regulators and standards setting bodies like ICAO need to do more to support enabling innovation, and are finding ways to do that, innovation itself has always been primarily entrepreneurial in nature, and as such it requires determined private sector vision, flexibility and investment.
31. Suffice to say that there's a role for everyone in the aviation ecosystem as we work towards decarbonizing the sector, and ICAO will welcome all around the table. In this regard, collaboration, and a unified global approach, are fundamental to the overall objectives we share to mitigate, decrease, and eventually eliminate air transport emissions.
32. Thank you.