



ICAO

**Introductory Remarks  
by ICAO Secretary General  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,  
to the 57<sup>th</sup> APAC DGCA High Level Panel Discussion on**

*Strengthening Regional Cooperation for the Restoration  
of Air Network with No Country Left Behind*

*(Incheon, Republic of Korea, 4 July 2022)*

1. It's a great honour to be introducing this topic today among such illustrious panel members.
2. As the Council President has already explored some related themes in his opening address, I'll keep these remarks brief so we can get right into the discussion.
3. I'd like to build on the points recalled by the President and suggest that the recovery of air transport presents government and industry leaders with three key priorities at this time.
4. The first of these is to restore international connectivity by ramping up flights and restoring routes, with all due regard for safety, security and efficiency performance. As we are seeing today, this is much easier said than done.
5. The second key priority is to reduce air transport emissions even as we strive for traffic growth. While on the surface these may appear as contradictory goals, I strongly believe that an emphasis on technical and process innovation and intensified cooperation can make them fully complementary.
6. The third key priority is to assure that we build aviation back better to be more resilient to future crises and especially communicable disease events, and this engages us on key security and facilitation objectives relating to a fully digitized and contactless digital experience, digital health proofs which are globally interoperable, and even the liberalization of air services when we consider the sustainability of our network from the socio-economic perspective.
7. As we approach these topics today we should also keep in mind the role to be played by dependable profitability for operators, and sustainable financing for government border services and regulators.

8. We also need to consider how we can do more to promote, as well as take advantage of, new aviation innovations.
9. The Council President spoke to our strengths as a system, and on all of these priorities we will achieve the greatest success through consensus and collaboration.
10. It has been a silver lining of the pandemic that it has brought APAC and other global States closer together, through new coordination and planning mechanisms, while greatly improving the links between civil aviation and public health authorities within States as well.
11. We should assure that we augment this momentum and these outcomes, even after the COVID-19 pandemic is long behind us.
12. Coordination and cooperation are also critical to implementation and capacity-building and our no country left behind initiative objectives. ICAO is deeply grateful for the partnership and generosity demonstrated towards contributing to achieving results in this region by so many States and donors.
13. Strengthening Regional Cooperation is key and my fellow distinguished panelists are leaders representing some of the key stakeholders from States, international and regional organisations, and industry. Together we can collaborate by applying the **new ICAO policy on implementation support** in contributing to the development and improvements in the aviation sector in the APAC region under all ICAO strategic objectives. With this new implementation support policy, ICAO will be able to better prioritize needs, improve accessibility, and be more results-oriented.
14. ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau and Regional Offices are ready to discuss your needs and questions regarding projects, products, and services. In the Asia Pacific region for example, we have established cooperative mechanisms to cover the various thematic priorities and geographic sub-regional specific needs. We can leverage on these to do more and better, supported as well by the vast implementation support services and products available from ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau in terms of projects and training.
15. I also wish to stress, in closing, that in a world of complex supply chains, and where international tourist flows are becoming more relevant to national economic outcomes, the new normal will need a new ICAO.

16. The Council and Secretariat are transforming our agency today to become more digital, agile and relevant, and I believe that achieving that objective has never been more important to our shared and prosperous future as united nations.
  
17. Thank you.