



ICAO

**Address by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the Consortium for Research and Innovation
in Aerospace in Quebec (CRIAQ)
RDV FORUM**

(14 February 2023)

1. Je suis très heureux de prendre la parole au Rendez-Vous Forum du CRIAQ aujourd'hui.
2. Je souhaiterais en premier lieu remercier le Président, Directeur Général Alain Aubertin, pour son aimable invitation.
3. As the United Nations specialized agency for international civil aviation, ICAO provides a platform where 193 countries collaborate to share their skies, that is aviation objectives and needs, to their mutual benefit.
4. They do so mainly by adopting international standards which they use to harmonize their national civil aviation regulatory frameworks, thus assuring safe, secure, sustainable, and seamless global air connectivity.
5. The timely development and updating of international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) remains the cornerstone of ICAO's mandate, and a great deal of our work involves bringing together industry operators, technical and Research & Development experts, civil society groups, and many other key partners and stakeholders.
6. This broad-based and consensus-driven approach ensures that the standards, which result from our efforts are comprehensive, inclusive, and resilient over the longer term.

7. In addition to this core work on aviation standards development, ICAO is also tasked and funded by these signatory countries to the Chicago Convention to develop global plans and targets in areas such as aviation safety, security, and air navigation capacity and efficiency.
8. To help countries support these strategic planning goals and global targets, ICAO delivers tailored training and capacity-building assistance through a holistic and results-based approach.
9. At our recently-concluded 41st Assembly, the 184 countries participating focused on the innovation and resilience of air transport, as we continue to reconnect the world during the pandemic.
10. The event delivered many key decisions in this context, supporting the increased sustainability of international air operations.
11. While countries have been making important progress on carbon emissions reduction with the support of ICAO for many years, at last year's Assembly they took this ambition still further by adopting a Net-Zero 2050 goal for international flight operations.
12. States have also agreed that achieving this objective will rely on the combined effect of multiple CO₂ emissions reduction measures, including:
 - innovative aircraft technologies;
 - streamlined operations reducing fuel burn;
 - emissions offsetting via the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) framework;
 - and the increased production and deployment of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF).
13. The practical considerations informing these commitments and ambitions are largely based on the current pace of technological and process innovation taking place all over the world.
14. These discoveries and advances in aeronautics, materials sciences, renewable energy storage and propulsion provide us with not merely a hope, but rather a very realistic expectation that carbon-neutral, and in some use cases even emissions-free powered flight, can become a national, regional, and global reality in the next few decades.

15. Another important factor in enabling these innovations will be the investment and regulatory climate they need to be fostered within, and this highlights the important role of ICAO in helping States establish a level and dependable policy playing field globally, to promote investor enthusiasm and confidence.
16. The States at our last Assembly also undertook their first periodic review of CORSIA emissions offsetting, recognizing the important and related global role to be played by the ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) programme, in assisting needful countries with the optimization of their sustainable aviation fuel production and distribution capacities.
17. It's very clear from these outcomes why aviation innovation was such a key focus at the Assembly.
18. States have fully endorsed that it will be key to achieving the sustainable and resilient aviation sector that we are working on to realize, and ultimately to helping them to invest toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
19. Many SDG-related contributions will be derived from new types of piloted and autonomous aircraft, delivering new types of air services for civil societies all over the world, and States have accordingly charged ICAO to actively engage in the global harmonization of Advanced Air Mobility approaches and innovations, in close collaboration with both civil and industry stakeholders.
20. The 41st Assembly also resoundingly urged for greater action on gender equality in the aviation sector, and I wish to recognize and commend CRIAQ's new annual scholarship programme dedicated to encouraging the next generation of women to choose university studies in aerospace. This is very much aligned with the objectives of the ICAO Gender Equality and Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programmes.
21. The future we're confronted with needs this transformed and carbon-neutral aviation network, but at the same time it will also need a more modern and effective ICAO.
22. These transformations are being designed to promote more substantive interactions between ICAO and industry, and to drive the emergence and mainstreaming of a culture of innovation.

23. Enhancing the interface between ICAO and the innovation community will amplify our interactions with more diverse stakeholders, including industry and Research & Development specialists and a wider range of government departments and agencies.
24. It will also lead to increased understanding of the needs of the sector, and aid ICAO's ability to adjust its responses with greater speed and agility.
25. The ICAO Secretariat Innovation Strategy and implementation plan fully supports the achievement of these results, and we've arranged for an independent assessment of innovation at ICAO to identify any related gaps.
26. We are also about to launch the ICAO Innovation Workshop to support multilateral engagements on innovation, and this will closely complement existing initiatives such as the ICAO Council Industry Consultative Forum.
27. Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to our new Innovation Webinar Series, and to the Innovation Competition we have running this year.
28. University-level students worldwide have been invited to participate in this initiative, and we look forward to their cutting-edge proposals to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient aviation ecosystem by 2050.
29. Airbus has graciously offered an internship to the winning contest team, and the results of the contest will be announced during the next ICAO Innovation Fair to be held during the first quarter of 2024.
30. In closing, I wish to underscore the fact that public and private sector aviation decision makers gather several times a year at ICAO, and to strongly encourage members from Montreal's local innovation community to join these gatherings and be a part of shaping the future of aviation.
31. I also wish to applaud you for your commitments to innovate, and encourage your continued and very active pursuit of new technologies and advances in areas such as aeronautics, materials sciences, artificial intelligence, and renewable energies and propulsion.

32. It's only fitting that the global solutions and responses to our current challenges emerges right here in Montréal – the World's Capital of Civil Aviation and host of ICAO.
33. The whole air transport value chain is represented in this aviation and innovation hub, and with that comes a myriad of opportunities to our local partners.
34. This Rendez-Vous Forum is really a fantastic demonstration of why this city is so important to innovators in our field.
35. ICAO is very proud to be the global forum and anchor for such determined international aviation cooperation, and we look forward to fulfilling that role during the exciting period ahead in closer cooperation with the CRIAQ innovation ecosystem.
36. Thank you.