



ICAO

**Remarks by the  
Secretary General of ICAO,  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,  
to the closing ceremonies of the 2023 SQDI Model ICAO**

*(ICAO HQ, Montréal, 5 May 2023)*

1. It's my great honour to participate in the closing of this latest Model ICAO event, and to express how encouraged we are to see such enthusiastic interest and engagement in the work of ICAO.
2. I would like to begin by congratulating
  - all of the Model ICAO Delegates who have been recognized for various awards this evening;
  - Also, all of the participants whose commitments made the event so interesting and rewarding;
  - and lastly all the academic and other expert representatives who have helped make this such a productive and enriching forum for new insights and ideas.
3. The topics you've explored here, and the procedures you've followed in doing so, have enhanced your insights into international diplomacy and the challenges ICAO faces in forging global consensus, in addition to broadening your perspective on aviation's key role in fostering sustainable socio-economic development.
4. It's also my personal hope, that you are now much better aware of how crucial it is that the air transport sector addresses its need for skilled and committed Next Generation of Aviation Professionals to operate our global network in the years ahead.
5. Many of you have demonstrated here that you have the capacities and scope which will be so essential to guiding future air transport development.

6. ICAO today is broadening its assistance and outreach to students and younger generations, because simply put, you are our future.
7. Your generation is highly equipped in terms of knowledge and passion, but also the technical skills and awareness to put the air transport sector and our planet and its societies on a more sustainable path.
8. And we're especially looking forward to young women and girls assuming more management and leadership roles, and in the skilled professions which keep our network moving.
9. The ICAO Gender Equality Programme continues to advocate for these changes to take place sooner rather than later, both within ICAO and across the international aviation ecosystem.
10. And the latest global aviation gender survey results which ICAO has just released shows that these efforts are achieving results for professions such as pilots, air traffic controllers, and aircraft maintenance technicians.
11. As a UN agency, ICAO is committed to keeping our world connected and united, and to improving our Member States' awareness of how the availability of safe and dependable air services delivers a very positive impact on countries' socio-economic and sustainable development.
12. It's in this way that ICAO-compliant air operations contribute fundamentally to States' capabilities to invest in attaining no fewer than 15 of the 17 United Nations' *Agenda 2030* Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.
13. Today most especially, modern economies are depending on global aviation supply chains and air tourism revenues, and as more and more innovation takes place, continuous new standards are required.
14. We are also entering a phase of transformational innovation and digitalization across air transport, and one which will see the realization of a contactless travel experience, new forms of propulsion, and entirely new types of aircraft and air services coming into service.

15. Lastly, with the States adoption of the new Long-term Goal through ICAO for NetZero2050 international aviation operations, we have a solemn responsibility to encourage greater international ambition and action among the entire air transport community to reduce CO2 emissions and achieve truly sustainable international flight.
16. To harmonize these developments for global integration, ICAO needs to become better and more efficient at what it does, but without sacrificing the quality, integrity, and due diligence which must be the basis of all effective standardization.
17. I'm therefore working through the ICAO Secretariat and Council to transform this agency into a more dynamic and agile multilateral solutions provider, and one which will be more purpose-built to support States and global air mobility in the very exciting decades now before us.
18. In concluding, please let me re-emphasize that ICAO is deeply honoured to be providing its facilities and support to assist la *Société québécoise de droit international* with hosting this year's Model ICAO.
19. I would like to please extend again our special thanks to the Director and Founder of the Model ICAO, Mr. Pierrick Pugeaud, for the kind invitation to be with you here this evening.
20. Looking at you is an important reminder to me that ICAO exists to serve future generations, and that your role as young people is to be catalysts for change.
21. Please let me congratulate you once again, and may I wish you all very exciting and fulfilling paths on your journeys to your future professional careers with an invitation for you to consider pursuing these in aviation, and most especially here with ICAO.
22. Thank you.