



**Congratulatory Remarks
by ICAO Secretary General
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
to the 6th International Flight Safety Seminar
for CAAs and Operators (IFSSCO/6)**

(Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1 June 2023)

1. Please let me express ICAO's congratulations to The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, of the Republic of Korea, for organizing this 6th International Flight Safety Seminar for Civil Aviation Authorities and Operators here in beautiful Seoul.
2. The World Health Organization has declared that the COVID-19 emergency is over, and we are all relieved by this, both as citizens of the world and as members of the aviation community.
3. However, the aviation industry recovery is just beginning. There are many challenges ahead, and events like this one continue to help transition us from our recovery footing back to more normalized operations and growth.
4. The programme for this seminar focuses on post-COVID pandemic challenges to the aviation sector and sustainable system resilience against future pandemics and other possible disruptions.
5. It also identifies the safety operational measures to be attended to in order to secure a safe return to operations.
6. Participants are encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences during the sessions, especially concerning key post-COVID pandemic resilience factors.
7. These would include your current operations and technology capacities, human and financial resources status, and stakeholder considerations.

8. A first key priority in building back better will be innovation, and the fast-tracking of new technologies which support the digitalization and sustainability of air services.
9. We should also seek to realize increased support for ICAO's Trainair Plus and the Next Generation Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programmes, keeping in mind the key role of each in enabling and optimizing system recovery.
10. Our plates are full in terms of air transport innovation, including not only Resilience Digitalization but also many new aircraft types, technologies, and operations.
11. And alongside the integration of these new solutions, and new entrants to civil aviation, we must also manage the safe and orderly resumption of traffic growth, and pay special attention to our overall decarbonization objectives.
12. On that topic, while air transport has been widely recognized in the past as a 'hard-to-decarbonize' sector, today airline and airport operators and the rest of our sector are focusing much less on the "only 2%" that air transport contributes to global CO2 emissions annually, and much more on what can, and must, be done to reduce it.
13. To support States attaining the Long-term Global Aspirational Goal (LTAG) of carbon neutral, or 'NetZero', international flights by 2050, which the countries adopted at ICAO's 41st Assembly last October, we will be prioritizing the work programme of the organization.
14. You can expect to hear more on this topic as we prepare for the next budgetary cycle, starting with the Air Navigation World events scheduled later this year, in Montréal and Singapore, as well as at the 14th Air Navigation Conference planned in 2024.
15. In conclusion, over the next few days, you will discuss a range of topics, including competitiveness, air navigation efficiency and capacity, safety, security, environmental protection, innovation, human resources, and good governance.
16. You will also importantly explore how we can work together to effectively devise and implement strategic plans to address the many challenges going forward.
17. I encourage all of you to actively participate in these discussions, share your perspectives, and contribute to the outcomes of this seminar.

18. Let us work together to enhance safety, as we emerge together from this pandemic recovery period, and harness the collective experience and lessons learned for the benefit of this region and beyond.
19. Thank you.