



**Remarks by the  
Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar  
to the Paris Air Lab event, Paris Air Show in Le Bourget**

*(Recorded for presentation on 20 June)*

1. I wish to begin today by applauding governments and industry for their aligned commitments to achieve carbon neutral air transport by 2050.
2. The solidarity of these commitments reflects a very long and results-based history of public/private consensus in international air transport, informing several generations of sustainable achievement.
3. Sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) with much lower life-cycle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, can deliver important near-term results toward this objective.
4. The tremendous potential of these new fuels, however, is counter-balanced by the enormous challenge to scale up their production and distribution.
5. ICAO is therefore fostering new international partnerships and cooperation with the energy and financial sectors to accelerate much-needed investment.
6. We are also helping countries to build local capacities and foster international contacts to optimize their SAF potential through our ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) programme.
7. To date, more than 120 States and International Organizations are now very actively participating in this initiative, many of whom will also be attending our third High Level Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) to be held in Dubai, UAE, this November, just before the UNFCCC COP28 to be held thereafter, also in Dubai.

8. Besides lower-carbon fuels, in the mid-to-longer term we should begin to see further CO2 emissions reductions arising from cutting-edge innovations in:
  - Aeronautics and aircraft design
  - Propulsion and energy storage
  - Materials sciences
  - And many other areas of current research and development (R&D) which have clear applications to greening powered flight.
9. The incredible diversity and pace of these innovations should make us recognize of what aviation '*will*' be able to achieve by 2050 in the face of latest discoveries.
10. Multilateral engagements are fundamental to realizing aviation's greener future on an aligned worldwide basis, and ICAO will continue to serve as the global nexus for that progress.
11. In closing today I wish to re-emphasize that aviation's journey towards Net Zero will only be successful if everyone is on board and boarding time is now for ICAO's Global Coalition for Sustainable Aviation.
12. Thank you again for this opportunity, and I wish you very engaging and productive discussions.