



**Closing Address
by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
at the closing of
8th African Aviation Week**

(Nairobi, Kenya, 25 August 2023)

1. I would like to begin by thanking the Government of the Republic of Kenya, represented here by Honorable Onesimus Kipchumba Murkomen, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Roads and Transport, for making this 8th African Aviation Week such a great success.
2. It has been an honour to work with you.
3. I also want to thank the Directors General of the Civil Aviation we have worked with here this week, the Chairs of the AFI Plan and AFI SECFAL Plan, the States' Representatives to ICAO, the ICAO Council and Air Navigation Commission Representatives, the distinguished Delegates, the ICAO Staff team and the many others involved in this 8th AFI Week's very efficient management, and results-driven collaboration.
4. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, friends and colleagues, this event has delivered some important outcomes that will help us work together more effectively toward all of our key strategic objectives for African aviation.
5. And having witnessed the strong consensus around these priorities, I am supremely confident that our results will lead to continued performance improvements in Africa's aviation safety, security, efficiency, and sustainability.
6. We have also made some excellent progress toward improving the outcomes of our current and future capacity-building efforts, and I look forward to your States taking full advantage of the new ICAO CDI platform and services to help assure this is the case.

7. The same goes for the assistance and development we will be pursuing under the AFI and AFI SECFAL Plan, and with the full confidence now that we have endorsed their work programmes and budgets through December 2024.
8. I was also greatly impressed these past few days by the quality of the interventions and ongoing initiatives presented by numerous AFI Week stakeholders, and I'm sure we all appreciated how they have provided such a testament to the dynamism of the industry and operators on the continent.
9. Clearly Africa has come to an important turning point in fulfilling its aspirations for local, regional, and international air connectivity on this continent.
10. Last but certainly not least, I wish to underscore the importance of gender equality and women empowerment in the transformative agenda ICAO has embarked on, through the implementation of the ICAO Gender Implementation Plan 2.0 and our People Strategy. The 41st session of the Assembly unanimously requested ICAO to continue to demonstrate leadership in the support of gender equality in aviation and encouraged stronger commitment from Member States and stakeholders to advance gender quality and women empowerment at the national level – with the support of ICAO.
11. This July, African female representatives from civil aviation authorities, industry, intergovernmental organizations but also NGOs joined forces during the ICAO Global Aviation Gender Summit in Madrid, which demanded stronger action from all stakeholders on gender equality in our sector. These voices resonated with ICAO, and lead to a results oriented Call to Action to all stakeholders. Count on the commitment and dedication of the ICAO team to support you in reducing the gender gap in aviation in Africa and throughout the world.
12. As is the case every year at this time, while AFI Aviation Week may be ending, the hard work ahead is just beginning.
13. Moving forward we must all resolve to translate our progress this week into effective policies, programmes, and actions that deliver the intended results.
14. Our vision is to connect Africa and the world, and it can only be achieved if we continue to work together.

15. ICAO remains fully committed to supporting the development of civil aviation in Africa, and we are deeply appreciative of the many Member States and regional and international organizations who are contributing so importantly to achieving this goal.
16. Thank you again for these five intensive and exciting days, and thank you so much to the Republic of Kenya for its incredible hospitality.
17. I wish to all of you all safe travels home.
18. Thank you.