

Closing remarks by
the Secretary General of
the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the IATA/ICAO Data Protection & International Carriage by Air Seminar
(28 September 2023)

1. Good afternoon to everyone,
2. Over the past two days you have discussed issues of tremendous importance to civil aviation regulators, industry, and ultimately, the travelling public, particularly as we face the operational challenges of the emergence from the pandemic.
3. I regret not having been able to attend these discussions due to previous commitments, but rest assured that my colleagues are fully committed to sharing the outcomes of your work with me, across the organization, and with our broader network of stakeholders.
4. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our colleagues at IATA for their invaluable contributions in organizing this Seminar, and, more generally, for their constant support to the enhancement of aviation and travel, which will facilitate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is worth pointing out that our work here, while focusing on air travel, will have positive benefits for other modes of international travel, and for intermodality in transport.
5. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all moderators and speakers for their diligent work, and please allow me to congratulate each and everyone for their excellent presentations, which will undoubtedly allow us to progress the future work to be done.
6. These interactions will serve as a very helpful catalyst for renewed collaboration and more effective communication among experts from Member States and industry, notably with respect to passenger data.

7. Noting these interactions, I assure you that ICAO, United Nations bodies and Member States have been working, and will continue to work together to facilitate development of appropriate legal and administrative frameworks regarding passenger data.
8. We are committed to ensuring that passenger data is used by competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. I am sure that the President of the Council's remarks yesterday on this topic, and on the recent amendments to ICAO Annex 9, were front of mind throughout the seminar.
10. The fact that Annex 9 obliges Member States to develop legal and administrative frameworks for the collection, use, processing and protection of Passenger name record (PNR) data, provides safeguards to prevent unauthorized access, disclosure and use of PNR data, which exist in many jurisdictions. I am sure that ICAO can count on all of you joining us, in our advocacy for its full implementation.
11. On that point, I would like to reassure you all that ICAO will continue to play its role in bringing together both governments and industry to drive strategic, and global implementation of passenger data transfer provisions. ICAO will closely monitor the initiatives and developments at the UN level, such as the *International Data Governance – Pathways to Progress*, which was endorsed by the UN Chief Executive Board earlier this year, and articulates a vision for the governance of data at the international level, as well as the development of the Global Digital Compact, which will be a key element of the United Nations Summit of the Future next year.
12. ICAO remains committed to contributing appropriate Advance Passenger Information (API) and PNR institutional knowledge and providing, within our mandate and when resourced, assistance to States to put Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and the related Guidelines for API and PNR data, into action.
13. I would now like to congratulate you all for the great success of this Seminar, and wish you all a safe journey home.
14. Thank you.