



**Keynote Address**  
**by the Secretary General of ICAO,**  
**Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar**  
**to the ICAO/EASA 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on RSOOs**  
***Recorded Remarks***

*(Nairobi, Kenya, 10-12 October 2023)*

1. I would like to express my gratitude for this opportunity to address you all today and advocate for the crucial importance of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) to the continued enhancement of global aviation safety.
2. I regret that I am not able to join you in person today and would also like to express my appreciation for the accommodation of my remote participation.
3. This event has been jointly organized together with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and on behalf of States, globally and Africa in particular, express appreciation for the excellent collaboration between ICAO and EASA on all the initiatives undertaken to support RSOOs over the last decade, thanks also to the personal involvement and support of EASA's leadership.
4. At the Twenty-Sixth AFI Plan Steering Committee meeting held in Nairobi last August, I highlighted the particular importance of one aspect of the agenda, the AFI Regional Safety Oversight Organizations structure.
5. Within this context, I underscored the importance for sustainable funding mechanisms that will be part of the discussions of this Second Global Forum of RSOOs.
6. I also highlighted the significance of the 2017 Ezulwini Declaration on RSOOs in Africa, which led to the development of a Global strategy and action plan for the improvement of RSOOs and the establishment of a global system for the provision of safety oversight, not only for the African Continent, but globally.

7. The outcomes of that first Forum paved the way to develop the Regional Cooperation activities deployed by ICAO to support RSOOs and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs).
8. Hosted by ICAO, the RSOO Cooperative Platform established in 2017 is where these organizations can exchange experiences, express views and support each other.
9. In 2021, a similar platform was created for RAIOs and other investigation cooperation mechanisms.
10. Those Cooperative Platforms have proven to be an excellent enabler for peer support among regional organizations. The enormous value of this fact became extremely clear in the very difficult circumstances after the COVID-19 outbreak, which required a large amount of cooperation and harmonization to effectively deploy the necessary mitigation strategies for the restart of air operations during the pandemic.
11. RSOOs were crucial in obtaining the desired outcomes.
12. This forum is a very tangible sign of the recognition of the importance of creating partnerships and regional cooperation and, more importantly, to sustain those partnerships in the long term.
13. All this leads me to my key point of advocacy today: ICAO is calling for the strengthening of RSOOs and RAIOs by States through the establishment of sustainable funding mechanisms, appropriate legal frameworks and adequate structures, processes and systems.
14. I would also like to highlight that one of the key objectives of this conference is also to engage industry to support regional organizations towards developing the capacity and expertise to manage new technologies.
15. This is also crucial for RSOOs and RAIOs to provide support to States in the long term.
16. I am sure that the discussions on the three panels of this conference will look at many of the different possibilities for assuring this needed sustainability, as well as a more efficient interoperability of industry with RSOOs and RAIOs.
17. In the not-too-distant future, I envisage a strong network of capable RSOOs and RAIOs that can facilitate or provide technical assistance for their Member States.

18. This will ensure the optimization of resources in supporting their Member States on their safety and accident and incident investigation obligations.
19. We need strong partnerships amongst various stakeholders: States, regional economic communities, industry and financial institutions to make it happen.
20. Before concluding today, I wish to thank all RSOOs that have helped ICAO in our ongoing work to update the ICAO guidance on RSOOs, including the provisions on legal frameworks, sustainable funding and State commitment. It is obviously crucial to have relevant and up-to-date guidance material for States and RSOOs.
21. I would also highlight how EASA has been such an actively engaged partner in so many of our activities and objectives, in particular on regional cooperation.
22. EASA has been a strong advocate of regional cooperation dating back to the Forum on regional safety oversight organizations in 2017 in Eswatini, where the RSOO Cooperative platform was born.
23. Since the 2017 Forum, ICAO has learned a lot working and coordinating with regional cooperation mechanisms. As a result, we continue to develop and evolve our programmes, in close coordination with our Regional Offices.
24. In conclusion, I once again want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to address this event today, and I am very much looking forward to the results of this very important meeting.

Thank you.