



ICAO

**Opening remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
UNWTO General Assembly – 25th Session**

(Recorded remarks for opening on 16 October 2023)

1. ICAO and the UNWTO play critical roles in enabling international air tourism to redistribute global income and foster social and economic development.
2. We have also illustrated for States how mobility-based prosperity permits governments to plan toward, and invest in, meaningful sustainable development and the UN SDGs.
3. While this message and dynamic have been very successful over recent decades, States have also made it clear to ICAO that for international aviation, they are no longer enough.
4. Together with the industry operators they regulate, countries are now unified that we must achieve carbon-neutral air transport by 2050.
5. This path to NetZero flight will be paved by many incredible innovations now taking place in terms of how aircraft are designed, powered and operated.
6. Sustainable Aviation Fuels will be playing a very important role in this transition, and important decisions on how to increase their global production and availability will be made this November, at the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels in Dubai.
7. Thanks to new technologies, and our shared commitments to innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship, the UNWTO and ICAO will continue to help leverage the full potential of global tourism growth to empower young people with high-value jobs, and to lead other industry sectors by example, focused on people, planet and prosperity.