



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE ICAO SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**THIRD ICAO CONFERENCE ON AVIATION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS (CAAF/3)**

**21 NOVEMBER 2023, 09:00 hours**

1. Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues. Welcome to the second day of CAAF/3.
2. I wish to begin by thanking our Host State, the United Arab Emirates, which is extending us its excellent and greatly appreciated hospitality as we continue these critical discussions.
3. Throughout yesterday's keynote addresses and high-level statements, it was repeatedly underscored that this event is a very important opportunity to guide this aviation sector towards its net-zero future.
4. We also heard from many key stakeholders who have reaffirmed their commitments to actively contribute and participate, and their partnership and ambition will be essential to our success.
5. Let us then carry that positive spirit and momentum for the days we have ahead of us, and collectively develop a global framework which outlines a clear path forward toward the partnerships, investments and development so urgently needed.
6. In a few short days (on 28 November) Virgin Atlantic will be operating a 100% SAF transatlantic flight, yet another important milestone in the journey to sustainability which is before us.

7. I mention this because the realization of this achievement provides a very concrete example of much that we are prioritizing together here, and most especially what Virgin CEO Shai Weiss described as *“a radical collaboration across our consortium partners and government.”*
8. Boeing, Rolls-Royce, British Petroleum and others all need to be closely involved in the preparations of this flight, and besides the UK regulator’s close cooperation, it also requires authorizations from the U.S. FAA, the Irish Aviation Authority, and Transport Canada.
9. I would therefore encourage us to be just as futuristic in our thinking and our ambitions at CAAF/3, and to proceed together in a manner which is fully respectful of each other’s views and positions.
10. As we commence Day 2, we have a very heavy agenda ahead of us, and so I will end my remarks here, with a short video showcasing some inspirational messages and expectations for this Conference.
11. Following this the President of the ICAO Council will commence the election of the CAAF/3 Chairperson.
12. In closing, let me please stress that this is a very special moment for aviation and for ICAO Member States, and one that can make some historic progress as we strive towards net zero 2050.
13. We have an opportunity here and now to lay down the first benchmarks for the sector’s cleaner energy transition, and we must inspire the world to engage in this challenge.
14. Thank you.