



**Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024
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Video message**

1. As the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, specialised agency of the United Nations, I would like to express my gratitude to the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center and the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China for organizing this important and timely dialogue. While I regret not being able to join you in Beijing, I'm honored to address you through this video message.
2. Our industry stands at a critical juncture, facing unprecedented challenges alongside extraordinary opportunities. In this context, your theme, "Sustainable Transport: Logistics connecting the world," is exceptionally relevant for guiding discussions.
3. Geopolitical shifts are rippling through supply chains. Technological disruptions are rewriting the rules of efficiency. And the climate crisis is leading to calls for dramatic change, including for logistics.
4. This complex landscape forms the backdrop for your discussion. Against this challenging background, ICAO is fostering a new perspective on these issues among its 193 Member States. This approach positions our organization uniquely to support the logistics industry as we collectively address our shared priorities.
5. The complexity of the global logistics network, once viewed as challenging, now presents opportunities, provided we harness its resilience through cross-border cooperation and cutting-edge solutions.

6. First among these priorities is preserving safety and security as cargo volumes increase. ICAO helps States stay ahead of emerging risks by facilitating collaborative approaches, including implementing leading-edge solutions like artificial intelligence for risk assessment and blockchain technology for shipment tracking.
7. These technologies support our second priority: optimizing efficiency and capacity across the globe's interconnected supply chains. In this context, our work on unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility holds particular promise for enhancing efficiency and capacity.
8. Our focus on efficiency leads naturally to our third and most crucial priority: minimizing environmental impact. While optimizing operations reduces flight times and fuel consumption, thereby decreasing aviation's carbon emissions footprint, this alone is insufficient to address aviation's stake in the global climate crisis.
9. A robust response to the climate emergency is essential. This is particularly critical for preserving air transport's role as a catalyst for sustainable development, especially in developing economies where we forecast the majority of air transport growth. By addressing environmental concerns, we ensure aviation can continue to drive economic progress without compromising our planet's future.
10. ICAO Member States' adoption of an aspirational goal of net zero carbon emissions from international civil aviation by 2050 proves that the political will exists at the global level. This commitment is bolstered by international agreement on frameworks to dramatically scale-up sustainable aviation fuel production and deployment. Programmes like Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) are key to these efforts. ICAO further supports States' progress under these agreements through initiatives like the planned ICAO Finvest Hub, which will link clean projects to prospective investors.
11. Before concluding, I would like to acknowledge China's significant progress in sustainable transition, particularly the meaningful steps it has taken domestically to produce and utilize alternative fuels.
12. By pooling our rapidly growing global expertise, we can swiftly implement impactful solutions that benefit all stakeholders in the aviation industry. This collaborative approach will transform today's challenges into competitive advantages, ensuring long-term sustainability and growth in international

logistics. Ultimately, this empowers trade worldwide to participate meaningfully in the global economy.

13. I now invite you all to reflect on how partnership with ICAO could help achieve these goals. Thank you for your attention and for this opportunity to address you today.