

**Opening Remarks from ICAO Secretary General**  
**FIATA World Congress 2024 | Plenary 1 Session**  
**"View from the top: Emerging trends and forces shaping logistics"**  
**23 September 2024**

**Virtual Remarks**

1. It is an honour to address this crucial FIATA World Congress. I extend my sincere gratitude to FIATA for organizing this event and for their ongoing partnership with ICAO and across the international civil aviation sector, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank FIATA for supporting ICAO and its Dangerous Goods Panel in maintaining dangerous goods provisions that facilitate the safe transport of dangerous goods globally. Your commitment to bringing diverse stakeholders together exemplifies the collaborative approach our rapidly evolving industry demands.
2. Today, airfreight stands at a critical juncture. International relations shifts, technological disruptions, and evolving consumer expectations are reshaping our landscape. Our global network's complexity presents both our greatest strength and our most pressing challenge. We must ask ourselves: How can we leverage this complexity to drive efficiency, sustainability, and resilience?
3. In 2022, the global air cargo volume reached 56.5 million tonnes, with significant growth in capacity. While we celebrate these achievements, we must also consider their broader implications. Our industry's growth amplifies our potential, but it also demands that we scale our safety and security measures.
4. ICAO's role in facilitating global collaboration is pivotal in this regard. As we grow, we must ensure that our safety and security measures evolve in tandem with our industry, leveraging technology and international cooperation to stay ahead of emerging challenges. By maintaining high standards in these areas, we cultivate the trust necessary for our industry to continue thriving and innovating.
5. To build on this foundation of safety and trust, we must address three critical imperatives: robust infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, and regulatory adaptability. As far as technology is concerned, we are seeing promising advancements in areas such as artificial intelligence for predictive maintenance, blockchain for enhanced supply chain transparency, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices for real-time cargo tracking and condition monitoring. By pooling our expertise and resources, we can transform challenges into competitive advantages.

6. Let me highlight the fact that education will play a key role in this transformation. Our joint training programmes with FIATA and other global partners exemplify our commitment to accessible, competency-based learning. A prime example is the ICAO-FIATA Dangerous Goods by Air Training Programme, launched in 2011. This programme, delivered through a network of authorized training centers worldwide, combines ICAO's technical knowledge and regulatory experience with FIATA's global reach in vocational training. It aims to equip freight forwarders, airline dangerous goods acceptance agents, and shippers with the skills to properly handle dangerous goods in air transport. Such initiatives foster a coordinated approach to mitigate risks and enhance knowledge across the supply chain.
  
7. As we look to the future, I encourage each of you to take bold steps in your respective roles and organisations. Your actions will resonate across our global network. The discussions here lay the groundwork, but it is our collective action that will advance air cargo into a new era of efficiency and sustainability. Let's cultivate insights and forge connections that will elevate our shared vision for a safer, more efficient, resilient, and sustainable air cargo industry.
  
8. Together, with FIATA, we can ensure that airfreight continues its ascent in the global economy.
  
9. Thank you all again for your partnership and commitment to our shared goals.