



**Opening remarks
by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
to the Facilitation Session of the
Global Youth Engagement on Sustainable Aviation**

(Virtual Event, 28 October 2021)

1. The 2021 ICAO Stocktaking event, held this past September, was another important opportunity to hear about the latest innovations and initiatives for aviation in-sector CO₂ emissions reductions.
2. It also heard a call being raised for young people around the world, passionate about aviation and the environment, to come together under an independent umbrella organization to better engage with ICAO.
3. Today's facilitation session is the next step in realizing that engagement, and in assuring that Global Youth have a clear voice and a direct channel to concretely contribute to the innovative green solutions which will build aviation back better.
4. Moving forward on a Global Youth Umbrella Organization is a challenging proposal, and accordingly we have many stakeholders with us today who can support you on your journey.
5. I greatly encourage you to take best advantage of their insights and advice, and all steps necessary to be up and running in time to provide your perspectives on aviation decarbonization in 2022.
6. As you're likely aware, the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly takes place next September, and this represents a key opportunity for your voices to inform States' consideration on a new long-term aspirational emissions goal for international aviation.

7. 2022 also marks fifty years from the 1972 Stockholm Conference, the very first United Nations conference on the human environment.
8. The Government of Sweden has offered to host a high-level meeting in conjunction with this anniversary, and Stockholm+50 is accordingly aiming to accelerate the transformation leading to sustainable and green economies, more jobs and a healthy planet for all.
9. The countless innovations presented at the ICAO Stocktaking events over the last two years have clearly demonstrated our sector's commitment and progress toward these goals.
10. That's why this is such a great moment for a **Youth Umbrella Group for Sustainable Aviation** to help push these priorities forward, and why you must ensure its conduct and composition are fully independent, open to all, and respectful of geographic and gender balanced representation.
11. After this facilitation session concludes, this work will be up to you. And I'm very confident that you have all the motivation and capability you need to be successful.
12. In concluding now I'd like to leave you with one final thought from Dr. PSJ Kumar, who said very wisely that:

“Old minds have the power to create history, but young minds have the power to change the history.”
13. It's very important to be assuring that the future we're defining is clearly aligned with the future YOU aspire to, and I wish you a very productive and inspiring meeting today as we get started on that work.
14. Thank you.