



ICAO

**Introductory remarks
by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
to Thematic Session 4 of the
Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference**

*Sustainable transport and green development:
climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience*

(16 October 2021, 5 AM, EDT)

1. As I look across the transportation sector today I see a vast potential for adaptation and green development.
2. COVID-19 has dealt us some tremendous economic shocks which have particularly impacted international air travel and tourism markets, but in the last few months signs of a gradual global recovery have begun to emerge.
3. This presents each of us with an unprecedented opportunity to transition our sectors to the new normal while addressing the defining challenge of our times: climate change.
4. As with road and rail and marine transport, innovations in electrification and vehicle and system design will be critical to aviation's greener future.
5. ICAO is therefore putting a lot of its energy into supporting inclusive green growth, while fostering initiatives to enable new technologies and clean energy for a sustainable aviation sector.
6. This includes promoting investments in electric and hydrogen-powered aircraft technologies, and driving increased aviation biofuel production globally based on sustainable agricultural practices.
7. States have asked ICAO to explore a new long-term goal for international aviation, and progress on this work will be presented to ICAO's 41st Assembly around this time next year.

8. Working toward that event, we've also taken several important steps to inform countries' decision-making, including by bringing together the incredibly diverse community of aeronautical and energy pioneers who are leading the evolution in powered flight.
9. We've provided a platform through consecutive 2020 and 2021 innovation Stocktaking events where their latest developments are being surveyed and shared to inspire further progress.
10. Industry has been very present and active at these symposia, and air transport leaders have made use of them to announce several concrete and ambitious plans for decarbonizing international aviation.
11. What started with major airline groups in 2020 has just recently evolved into an industry-wide Net-Zero 2050 commitment.
12. States too are answering this urgent call, with the vast majority having prepared and submitted specific ICAO Action Plans to reduce their national aviation emissions.
13. These and many other activities have permitted the sector to meet current global aspirational goals of a two percent annual fuel efficiency improvement, and carbon-neutral growth, and to begin complement those results soon with the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) initiative.
14. This first-ever market-based measure to address the carbon emissions of a global industry sector is fully on track, and ICAO will continue to ensure strengthened international cooperation to achieve its goals.
15. In concluding I wish to recognize that the IPCC/6 Report has very clearly and forcefully defined the urgency of reducing anthropogenic CO₂ emissions.
16. While international aviation emissions are addressed through ICAO, and not covered by States' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC, an ambitious outcome at COP26 could encourage just as ambitious decisions at our Assembly next year to better complement the Paris targets.

17. Countries today need to support the decarbonisation of the sector through credible regulations, and via policies that facilitate investment and incentives for the implementation of green infrastructure and innovation.
18. This critical decade of action will define our shared, post-carbon future, and I am excited to hear more from our fellow panellists today on how we can work better together to foster climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience-building across all modes of transport.
19. Thank you.