



**Closing remarks
by the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the 2021 ICAO CORSIA Forum**

(Virtual Meeting, 7 October 2021)

*Distinguished Council Member Representatives and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As this Forum comes to a close, I wish to reflect on the fact that CORSIA is truly a unique global initiative.

On the one hand it is the only global market-based measure that currently applies to an international industry sector, and on the other it has broken a 75-year ICAO tradition of relying on in-sector capabilities to address international aviation challenges.

Quite importantly, CORSIA supplements other innovation-oriented emissions mitigation activities under the ICAO Basket of Measures, and since its adoption it has become the ‘poster child’ of sorts for ICAO’s overall efforts on climate change.

During these last two days, we heard from State representatives, CORSIA experts, and civil society.

We heard how national CORSIA legislation has been established and formalized, how systemic problems were overcome, and how cooperation at the international level can actually make a difference through sharing knowledge and building capacity under the ICAO coordinated framework.

You also heard about the comprehensive and robust CO₂ monitoring, reporting and verification framework for countries and operators, and work that has been carried out in the areas of CORSIA eligible fuels and emissions units.

This involves the development of sustainability criteria and life-cycle CO₂ reduction methodologies for aviation fuels, and the assessment and approval of eligible programmes that can generate CORSIA emissions units.

An important takeaway from these discussions has been that no obstacle or difficulty on the path to aviation sustainability is insurmountable.

The implementation of CORSIA has progressed at an amazingly fast pace, and especially given what our industry has gone through over the last two years.

Despite the economic impacts on all States and airlines around the world due to the pandemic, CORSIA implementation is on track and you and the many other stakeholders involved in assuring that should be proud of this accomplishment.

At this point in human history, minimizing the impact of human actions on the global climate is undoubtedly our most urgent and serious challenge.

The scientific community could not be clearer on the need to act now if we want to avoid catastrophic consequences for our planet and our collective way of life.

Aviation takes its sustainability responsibilities very seriously. Just a few days ago the industry adopted an ambitious target of net –zero carbon emissions by 2050. And, it has also demonstrated this over the last 20 years by being the first sector to adopt global aspirational goals through energy efficiency improvements and carbon neutral growth, and the first to adopt a global market-based measure.

Being first, however, is not the key objective. Being responsible and accountable for our actions is.

The aviation sector has always dealt with challenge and adversity through its resolve and consensus, and there is no better means of assuring actions and outcomes which are meaningful and successful over the longer-term.

In-sector efforts and investments will be critical as air transport continues to adopt latest innovations for more sustainable aircraft and operations, but CORSIA will also address some important gaps in meeting current and possibly new long-term aspirational targets for air transport as these latest innovations continue to be developed, standardized, and deployed.

In concluding, I would thank all of our speakers for their inspiring presentations, and for the efforts they've undertaken which have contributed to the success of CORSIA.

I also would like to thank all of you for your active participation and interest.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the ICAO Secretariat, and in particular the ATB Director, Mr. Mohamed Rahma, the Environment Branch Deputy Director, Mrs. Jane Hupe and everyone on their teams who helped make this event possible.

I wish you all well and I hope to see you again in person soon.

Thank you for your attention.