



**Opening Remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the 2023 ICAO Air Navigation World
*Shaping the Skies of Tomorrow***

(ICAO HQ, Montréal, Canada, 28 August 2023)

*Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my honour to welcome you to this 2023 iteration of ICAO's Air Navigation World, dedicated to *Shaping the Skies of Tomorrow*.

We know very well that Air transport is an innovative and forward-looking industry – one which promotes advanced technologies, and which constantly stimulates development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

ICAO has organized this event to discuss how air navigation will continue to evolve with new technologies, concepts of operation, and innovations needed to support the safe evolution of the aviation system and meet the expectations of the aviation community.

We see this forum as a very timely opportunity for an open dialogue, among all aviation stakeholders, on the operational and implementation challenges of air navigation and safety solutions.

And, as I look across this room today and appreciate the breadth of our participants, I am confident that the variety and quality of the insights and perspectives we will hear in the coming days will greatly enrich our understanding of the challenges ahead.

Alongside this year's conference, ICAO has arranged an industry exhibition of current and emerging technologies, along with several SkyTalks on topics of interest.

I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation at this time to all of our exhibitors, sponsors, and presenters for their generous contribution to the success of this event.

With air traffic estimated to be close to pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year, the demands upon our sector to operate more sustainably are becoming increasingly acute.

The efforts toward reduced environmental impact will only grow in the coming years, and air transport sustainability in that context becomes not only a moral imperative and a policy obligation, but also a basic economic and competition consideration.

As we are all now aware, last Assembly ICAO member States adopted an historic decision to decarbonize air transport by 2050 (A41-22). States are working to amend their national or regional policies, while the Aviation Industry is fully engaged to align its objectives for carbon neutral international flights by this deadline.

This NetZero goal will rely on multiple factors, including new technologies, more efficient air navigation routes, Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), and other measures which will be borne of the innovations taking place even as I address you here today.

Over the next few days, you will discuss a range of issues with the potential to help our sector address the Long-term Aspirational Goal (LTAG), including the future of the air navigation system, performance-based airport operating minima, higher airspace operations, airport planning and capacity, and others.

The programme that starts today will have discussions focused on the operational opportunities to support LTAG, and the ICAO LTAG report clearly shows a need for operational measures to deliver eleven percent of CO₂ emission reductions by 2050.

These sessions will also focus on several latest innovations that have the potential to improve the efficiency and safety of the air navigation system.

Besides these very critical discussions on the sustainable future of our sector, many other important topics will also be addressed by you over the coming days focused on specific challenges and opportunities which lie ahead such as the information revolution, full connectivity, and service delivery for which cyber-security resilience is fundamental.

And whether these discussions are focused on modern approaches to safety, the ongoing revolution in digital information and connectivity, new aircraft fuels and propulsion methods, or any of the many other topics on your agenda, I encourage everyone present to reflect on what will be possible for air transport in the exciting years ahead.

We have a very full schedule over the next few days and look forward to reconvening on Thursday for the overview of the conference's outcomes and a discussion on the way forward.

Before concluding, however, I would now like to return to the very real challenge we face of transforming ideas into reality.

The ICAO global plans for air navigation and aviation safety are living documents that point us to a higher performance future for global air navigation and aviation safety, as well as a roadmap for investment in new capabilities and implementations.

I therefore wish to encourage all States and stakeholders to refer to these plans in their decision-making to ensure a fully informed and cooperative approach.

ICAO's mission is to transform visions and plans into implementable safety and air navigation standards and guidance, and through those outcomes to assure certainty for the operators and confidence for the investors who are fundamental to the achievement of our collaborative goals and vision.

Needless to say, with 193 Member States, it can be quite challenging and time-consuming to forge consensus at times, and even despite the recognition by governments that technologies and capabilities are evolving on an accelerating basis.

This is why this 2023 Air Navigation World event is bringing together leaders and key decision-makers to develop new insights on both the complex challenges that the industry faces, and the ways we need to best prepare for them.

In closing today, I wish to emphasize the need to continue enhancing our global collaboration mechanisms.

ICAO is eager to consider your insights on how we can assist with coordinating advances in the field more rapidly, so that the benefits can be seen much sooner.

Over the next few days, we can identify solutions that will propel us on a much more direct and innovative course for global air transport, ensuring we meet the ambitions of NetZero by 2050 while simultaneously overseeing the safe and sustainable growth in system capacity.

With that, I look forward to your fruitful and constructive discussions and take this opportunity to invite you to a reception, which will be held in the Foyer just beyond this hall later today at 1745 hours.

Thank you.