



**Opening address by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of CLAC**

(Lima, Peru, 14 December 2023)

*Señor Presidente de la CLAC,
Señor Secretario Ejecutivo de la CLAC,
Señor director general de aviación civil de Peru,
Distinguidas autoridades, estimados invitados, queridos colegas de la aviación civil,*

Es un honor y un privilegio dirigirme a ustedes en esta ocasión especial, conmemorando el quincuagésimo Aniversario de la Comisión Latinoamericana de Aviación Civil, CLAC.

En nombre de la Organización de Aviación Civil Internacional, OACI, deseo expresar nuestras felicitaciones por este hito histórico.

ICAO is appreciative of the significant cooperation between Latin American States, including through ICAO, over the past five decades.

This cooperation has enabled the joint achievements that have shaped the development of civil aviation in this region.

Indeed, the collaboration between CLAC and ICAO has been among the beacons of success for regional civil aviation.

Together, we have worked tirelessly to promote operational safety, facilitate the development of integrated navigation systems, and ensure the environmental sustainability of the sector. The fruits of this collaboration are evident in the skies and at the airports of Latin America, where aviation has become a vital engine for economic growth and regional connectivity.

Today, as we celebrate 50 years of collective efforts, I wish to emphasize the importance of welcoming new actors and operators.

Diversification and competition are key to driving innovation and improving connectivity. It is crucial that, as a region, Latin America fosters a regulatory environment conducive to investment, removing barriers and facilitating access to the air transport market. This includes aspects pertaining to competitiveness.

ICAO is continuously updating the Compendium of Competition Policies and Practices. The Compendium now contains information on policies and regulatory practices in the field of competition by 193 States, which constitutes 100 per cent of ICAO's membership.

Integrated planning to understand the needs and opportunities of each country will be key to addressing the growing demands of the sector.

I would also like to highlight that competitiveness in the civil aviation sector relies heavily on the retention and growth of specialized human talent.

We need to invest in the training and development of skilled professionals, as it is these professionals who will optimize air navigation and airport services infrastructure and operations.

I would be remiss if I would not mention the need of a sustainable development of civil aviation.

Sustainable aviation is a fundamental commitment, and we must make progress in implementing technologies and practices that reduce CO₂ emissions.

Commitments from the LTAG adopted at the 41st ICAO Assembly last year, in particular on the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels, SAF, and on emission reduction plans must be integral to your regional agenda. ICAO is leading the way through the implementation of its 'ACT-SAF' programme which provides tailored Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for States, including through conducting SAF feasibility studies, policy development, and project implementation.

I am pleased to advise that more than 130 States and international organizations, have joined the ACT-SAF initiative, including 16 LACA Member States. They are actively contributing to the programme, as well as receiving support for it.

Just a few weeks ago, the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels, which concluded in UAE delivered a global framework for ramping up the production and deployment of clean energy. In fact, clean aviation energy holds the promise of delivering over half of the emissions reductions States need to achieve their net zero ambitions.

Key elements of the Framework include a collective vision for the transition to clean energy by the aviation sector, harmonized regulatory foundations, supporting implementation initiatives and improved access to financing for related initiatives in line with ICAO's "*No Country Left Behind*" initiative. I was pleased to announce this important achievement at the highest level of COP28.

Now, as we celebrate this anniversary, I would like to reaffirm ICAO's commitment to progress towards our Strategic Objectives in this region, and toward operational safety, enhanced security, facilitation measures, and the development of integrated navigation systems in particular. These goals are the compass guiding our path to a safer, more efficient, and sustainable future.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank very much the host country, Peru and to express my sincere appreciation especially to Brigadier Blengini, Director of DINACIA in Uruguay and President of the CLAC, as well as CLAC Executive Secretary Dr. Jaime Binder.

Your leadership is crucial to the success of our collaboration, and we thank you for your dedication and contribution to the development of civil aviation in Latin America.

Before concluding, let me remind that while we celebrate the 50th anniversary of LACAC, we should also acknowledge that this year we celebrate also the 75th anniversary of the South America Office.

Estos 50 años de logros, aprendizaje y cooperación han sentado una base sólida para el desarrollo continuo de la aviación en América Latina.

Y así, mientras reflexionamos hoy aquí sobre los últimos 50 años, miremos también hacia adelante, hacia el tremendo potencial y progreso que esta región tiene por delante.

Gracias.