



**Opening Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the 2025 Global Implementation Support Symposium (GISS)**

*(Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, 10 February 2025)*

*Your Excellency, Minister of Economy of the UAE and Chairman of the GCAA, Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Directors General of Civil Aviation,  
Council Representatives,  
Secretary General of ICAO,  
industry representatives,  
colleagues and friends,*

Welcome to ICAO's Global Implementation Support Symposium. As we embark on this week's proceedings, I want to express our profound gratitude to our hosts, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, with special thanks to their Excellencies Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri and Saif Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority. Your leadership and support exemplify the collaborative spirit that drives international aviation forward and we are all so happy to be here in your wonderful country this week and in this unique venue.

When this event was first launched in Türkiye three years ago, we received a clear message from its participants: ICAO needed to strengthen its support for Member States' safety, security, and sustainability goals.

Since then, ICAO has undertaken several initiatives aimed at strengthening and extending its efforts and activities. I have already mentioned on other occasions that the establishment of the Capacity Building and Implementation Support Bureau is not a cosmetic change of the Technical Cooperation Bureau. It is a strategic change in the direction and in line with the No Country Left Behind initiative.

In particular, allow me to highlight the historic decision taken most recently by the ICAO Council when adopting the 2026-2050 Strategic Plan. It introduced a new Strategic goal: No Country Left Behind. I want to emphasize here that No Country Left Behind is no longer an 'initiative' as we used to say. It is now a Strategic Goal. This changes dramatically the approach regarding implementation support.

None of this work would be possible without the technical assistance funding from States and industry partners. Thanks to the generosity of many Member States, ICAO has received over 25 million dollars in the current three-year period. To use these resources effectively, we've improved our needs analysis and data-driven prioritization.

This enhanced understanding of our community's needs now guides all our initiatives. It enables more precise technical assistance, more effective donor engagement, and the creation of targeted products and services that better prepare for new standards implementation.

Our prioritization process carefully balances several key factors: the strategic goals set by our Member States, the resources available to them, the interests of our donors, and the expected return on investment. This approach ensures we make the most of every dollar invested in aviation's future.

Our achievements in capacity building over the last three years represent real, tangible progress in strengthening aviation capabilities worldwide.

Our agenda this week focuses on three interconnected areas that are vital to our future. First, we will examine how sustainability can serve as a powerful agent for growth. Second, we will explore ways to enhance our implementation support and expand our training capacity. And finally, we will look further ahead to emerging technologies, with particular attention to how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping our regulatory, certification, and operational landscape.

Among these challenges, climate stands out as our most urgent priority, calling for immediate and sustained action. Later this week, ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar and Air Transport Action Group Executive Director Haldane Dodd will present our Finvest Hub initiative. This groundbreaking programme intends to create new funding pathways for aviation infrastructure and environmental transition. The Finvest Hub initiative will facilitate innovative financing and create partnerships to support the adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuels, critical to achieving our long-term aspirational goal of reducing to zero international aviation emissions.

I also wish to draw your attention to an important initiative running in parallel with this GISS, the Global Sustainable Aviation Marketplace, developed in partnership with UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority and Sustainable Aviation Futures., In this regard, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Director General of Civil Aviation of UAE for having proposed this initiative approximately one year ago. This first-of-its-kind global forum will serve as a comprehensive platform for advancing our sustainability goals. Through this initiative, we will showcase innovative pathways to scale aviation decarbonization and accelerate SAF production worldwide.

The forum will serve as a catalyst, promoting SAF partnerships and raising awareness of sector decarbonization. It will explore incentivizing SAF adoption, support the inclusion of other cleaner energies, and make way for new innovations in aviation sustainability. On the basis of its outcomes, and your valuable inputs, this forum may be organized as a stand-alone event in the future.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm that ICAO stands ready not only to build on what we achieve here over the next days but to accelerate the global progress toward our shared goals of a safer, more secure and sustainable civil aviation. I look forward to our discussions and wish you all a productive and inspiring week ahead.

Thank you.

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