



**Closing Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the 61st Conference of the APAC DGCA's**

*Distinguished Directors General,
Colleagues,*

1. As we close this important meeting, I wish to sincerely thank all of you for your active participation, open dialogue, and ongoing commitment to international civil aviation.
2. I also would like to reiterate ICAO's gratitude to Malaysia, whose generous hospitality and excellent organization have ensured the success of this meeting.
3. Your discussions over the past days have strengthened our partnership and ICAO's ability to lead cooperation and progress towards our goals.
4. The Asia-Pacific region is at the centre of global aviation growth.

5. Working together, we will ensure civil aviation grows safely, securely, efficiently, and sustainably throughout the region.
6. Here, you have highlighted both valuable progress and the ongoing challenges faced across every area of ICAO's work.
7. First, you have underscored our shared responsibility to maintain strong oversight, close the remaining gaps in implementation, and foster a risk-based, performance-driven approach to civil aviation.
8. You have also recognized the need to remain alert to new and evolving risks, including those linked to new technologies and complex airspace operations.
9. At the same time, you have called for the smooth and safe movement of people and goods, and for a focus on dignity, non-discrimination, and universal accessibility in air transport.
10. Second, you have reiterated that environmental sustainability must be assured as air connectivity grows thanks to your pursuit of these ambitions.
11. ICAO is fully committed to the global aspirational goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions for international aviation by 2050.

12. To reach this goal, you have acknowledged the importance of State Action Plans, clean technologies, smarter operations, sustainable fuels, and the steady implementation of CORSIA as part of a comprehensive approach.
13. I encourage all States to keep their support for CORSIA and remain closely aligned with ICAO's global framework, so global aviation can deliver an effective response to climate challenge.
14. Third, this week, you have also been invited to make the most of ICAO's capacity development and implementation support to deliver on Standards and Recommended Practices.
15. Investment in human capacity will also be essential. Every State must attract, develop, and retain the skilled aviation professionals needed to achieve air transport's full potential.
16. Please keep communicating your needs to the ICAO APAC Regional Office, so we can coordinate our response across this region.
17. In this regard, I also invite you to consider voluntary financial contributions under the No Country Left Behind initiative, and to encourage the participation of qualified experts in capacity development and training activities.

18. You have the Secretariat's continued commitment and support, guided by the ICAO Council and Assembly, and shaped by the priorities you have set during this meeting.

Colleagues,

19. Before concluding, I want to join the ICAO Council President in urging you to attend the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference in Montréal this November.
20. Your voice and insight from the Asia-Pacific region will be critical in shaping the next phase of global air transport.
21. The future of aviation will be shaped not only by technological innovation, but also by our ability to establish legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks that enable innovation to thrive safely and responsibly.
22. I therefore encourage your active participation in both the 40th session of the Legal Committee at the end of October and the upcoming Advanced Air Mobility Symposium at the beginning of December.
23. Together, these forums will help ensure that we are collectively prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the next generation of aviation.

24. I also want to invite you to join me in commending the staff of the ICAO APAC Office for their work in designing and facilitating this meeting. The format and organization have greatly added to the quality and value of our discussions.
25. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the fact that today is the 25th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11. Let us take a moment to remember the victims and their families of that tragedy which changed the face of our industry forever.
26. Since that terrible day, the work of ICAO helped reshape aviation security by enhancing collaboration amongst all Member States. Such collaborative efforts and enhanced legal frameworks continue to underpin the advancement of aviation security and the protection of international civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference.
27. As we mark this anniversary, we are also reminded that aviation security remains a shared and evolving responsibility. In this regard, I encourage States to actively engage in the ICAO Aviation Security Week in October this year.
28. The event will provide another valuable opportunity for the global aviation community to strengthen cooperation, exchange best practices, and address emerging security challenges together.
29. In concluding now, I encourage you to keep up the partnership that has carried us through this week and continue to work closely with each other.

30. Take the energy and ideas from this conference back to your States and institutions and continue to build on the collective momentum towards our shared strategic vision of air transport for all by 2050, with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.
31. I wish you now safe journeys home, and every success as you continue to advance international civil aviation. Thank you.