



ICAO

Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7)

Air Transport: Powering Global Connectivity, Economic Development and Resilience in a Dynamic World

Ministerial Declaration

Montréal, Canada, 16-20 November 2026

Preamble

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), held in Montréal, Canada, from 16 to 20 November 2026, in the presence of high-level representatives of the civil aviation sector, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as global financing and development institutions, under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):

Reaffirming the need of the full and consistent implementation of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), signed on 7 December 1944, and its Preamble, which affirms that “*international air transport services may be established on the basis of equality of opportunity and operated soundly and economically*”,

Highlighting the importance for States to effectively implement ICAO Assembly Resolutions on continuing ICAO policies in the air transport field, and the key role of ICAO’s implementation support,

Acknowledging the significant value of air transport as a vital enabler of national development, regional integration and global connectivity, through passenger, mail and cargo services, which contributes to economic growth, trade, tourism and social progress,

Welcoming the recommendations and outcomes of ATConf/7 as a vital milestone to support the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050 and particularly the ICAO Strategic Goals of “*The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-being for All*” and “*No Country Left Behind*”,

Recalling that ensuring regulatory stability, predictability and visibility is essential to enable long-term planning, support investment decisions, and facilitate the safe and efficient deployment of new technologies and operations,

Mindful of the lessons learned from recent global disruptions, the projected traffic growth through 2050, as well as the shared interest in resilient, sustainable and well-governed air transport systems, supported by appropriate infrastructure, human capital and harmonized regulatory frameworks,

Acknowledging the transformative potential of cleaner aviation energies and emerging technologies including advanced air mobility, artificial intelligence, data-driven services, while recognizing that their integration into existing economic regulatory frameworks require coordinated global responses,

Emphasizing ICAO's global leadership role in establishing and upholding the air transport economic policies under the global framework to foster the development of a sound, economically viable, affordable and accessible civil aviation system, and in bringing together stakeholders from the wider aviation value chain:

Declare as follows:

1. Advancing global air transport growth and connectivity

- 1.1. We commit to upholding air transport as a key driver of economic development, regional integration and global mobility, with infrastructure service providers acting as strategic assets and viable business delivering essential connectivity and socio-economic value.
- 1.2. We resolve to continue advancing the inclusive, orderly, efficient and sustainable growth of air transport, and support initiatives, technological advancement and innovation that optimize air connectivity, with the view to fostering an enabling operating environment, improving passenger experience, promoting consumers' benefits and enhancing operational flexibility for mail and cargo services, while encouraging fair competition.
- 1.3. We will continue pursuing liberalization of market access in accordance with the *ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization* guided by the principle of fair and equal opportunity for the benefit of all stakeholders and the economy at large.

2. Investing in the development of civil aviation infrastructure

- 2.1. We reiterate that sustained air traffic growth and connectivity depend on adequate and modernized civil aviation infrastructure and related aviation systems as well as enhancing the efficient use of existing infrastructure.
- 2.2. We encourage States to integrate civil aviation infrastructure planning into national and regional development plans and strategies and enabling air transport infrastructure investment to maximize its cross-cutting contribution to sustainable economic growth, trade, tourism and social development.
- 2.3. We support efforts by States to foster a stable investment climate by mobilizing new and diversified funding sources and public-private partnerships, supported by regulatory stability, comprehensive project planning for civil aviation infrastructure development, the access to cleaner aviation energies, as well as emerging technologies and operations, including advanced air mobility and artificial intelligence, while recognizing that infrastructure development remains the primary responsibility of Member States and the industry.

3. Strengthening institutional capacity and regulatory effectiveness

- 3.1. We commit to continue strengthening institutional and regulatory effectiveness, with emphasis on the consistent implementation of the Chicago Convention, as well as ICAO policies and guidance, through good governance, improved planning, financing,

implementation support and economic regulatory oversight, to ensure a fair, transparent and efficient international air transport system.

- 3.2. We call upon States to uphold, implement and harmonize in a transparent manner, the application of ICAO economic policies and frameworks.
- 3.3. We further call on all relevant United Nations (UN) agencies to continue collaborating and consulting with ICAO on issues on ICAO's mandate and those that may affect international air transport.
- 3.4. We will collaborate with ICAO and its strategic partners for inclusive, coordinated, and forward-looking strategies that equip the civil aviation industry with the talent, skills, and capacities required to ensure its growth, resilience, innovation, and future preparedness, with support for ICAO's Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP), as well as capacity-building and technical assistance, particularly for developing States in line with the "*No Country Left Behind*" Strategic Goal.
- 3.5. We resolve to continue to address existing and emerging challenges, improve preparedness and resilience in extraordinary circumstances, support emerging technology and innovation, foster air connectivity and seamless travel, and maximise the socio-economic benefits of air transport for all, grounded in ICAO's economic principles and frameworks.

Working together for a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive growth of international air transport.

We call upon ICAO, States, industry and all stakeholders to continue strengthening cooperation and collaboration to support resilient, orderly, efficient, sustainable and inclusive growth of international civil aviation network with strengthened global regional and national connectivity to maximise the socio-economic benefits of air transport for all.

Adopted in Montréal, Canada, on 20 November 2026.