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SEVENTH WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE (ATCONF/7)

Montréal, HQ, 16 to 20 November 2026

DRAFT REPORT ON THE GENERAL SECTION

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HISTORY OF THE MEETING

1. DURATION

1.1 The Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7) was convened in the Assembly Hall of the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montréal at 0900 hours on 16 November 2026. Mr. T. Onuma, President of the Council, opened the Conference, which was also addressed by The Honourable S. MacKinnon, Minister of Transport Canada, and Ms. S. Al Nuwais, Secretary-General of UN Tourism. The Conference completed its work on 20 November 2026.

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1 The Conference was attended by members and observers nominated by 154 Member States and 44 international organizations, as well as by advisers and others. A list of participants may be found on the ATConf/7 website: https://www.icao.int/events/ATConf7/list-participants.

3. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT

3.1 Mr. T. Chagas Faierstein (Brazil) was elected Chairperson of the Conference. Mr. H. van Faasen (Netherlands) was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Conference.

3.2 The Secretary of the Conference was Mr. J. C. Salazar, ICAO Secretary General, who was assisted by Ms. S. Hifdi, Acting Director, Air Transport Bureau (ATB) and the Conference Coordinator and Regional Director of the Middle East Office, Mr. M. K. Rahma. They were also assisted by Mr. P. Alawani, Chief, Economic Regulatory Framework Section, Mr. C. Robinson, Ms. S. Chen, Ms. R. Ismail, Ms. J. Zabrodska, Mr. M. Porto and by other officers of ATB and of other bureaux and offices of the organization, as necessary. Conference administration was coordinated by Ms. R. Akoury and Ms. C. Ramsamy, and documentation and report writing were coordinated by Ms. F. Cotrut, Ms. N. Souto and Ms. N. Walsh.

4. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

4.1 The agenda presented in ATConf/7-WP/1 was adopted at the opening Plenary in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Standing Rules of Procedure for Meetings in the Air Transport Field* (Doc 8683).

5. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 The Conference met as a single body each day from Monday through Friday starting with panel discussions on the theme of each day's agenda items. On Friday morning, a Ministerial Declaration was adopted.

5.2 On 16 November 2026, the Secretary General delivered a presentation on the overview of aviation to set the scene for the event. This was subsequently followed by a high-level panel discussion on *The State of the Aviation Industry: Navigating Change and Assessing Readiness for 2050* which was moderated by the Secretary General. The panellists comprised the Secretary of State for Civil Aviation, Maritime and Ports of Angola; the Deputy Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China; the Director General of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission; the Deputy Minister of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay, and the President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Oman.

5.3 Presentations were also delivered by five industry organizations, namely the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), Airports Council International (ACI), the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA). These presentations provided industry perspectives on key developments affecting international air transport and on priorities for ensuring the sector's continued growth, resilience and sustainability.

5.4 On 17 November 2026, a panel discussion on *Mobilizing Investment for Aviation Infrastructure Development and Modernization* was moderated by the Director General, ACI. The panellists comprised the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Guyana; the Secretary of State for Infrastructure, Portugal; the Senior Vice President Global Operations, CANSO; the Senior Director, Infrastructure Investments, PSP Investments; and the Vice President of Private Sector, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF).

5.5 On 18 November 2026, a panel discussion on *Strengthening Aviation Regulatory and Institutional Framework* was moderated by the Executive Director of ATAG. The panellists comprised the Vice-Minister and State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany; the National Administrator of Civil Aviation, Argentina; the Director General of Civil Aviation, Eswatini; the Senior Vice President, External Affairs, IATA; and fellow at the SHALE, the Swiss Hub for Air and Space Law and Economics at the World Trade Institute of the University of Bern.

5.6 Presentations on *Advancing Social Sustainability in Aviation* were also delivered by the Director, Capacity Development and Implementation Bureau, ICAO; the International President of the Association of Flight Attendants - Communications Workers of America, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CWA, AFL-CIO); the President of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA); the Transport Specialist of International Labour Organization (ILO); and the Alternate Representative of the United Arab Emirates on the Council of ICAO.

5.7 On 19 November 2026, a panel discussion on *Shaping the future of aviation: Harnessing emerging technologies* was moderated by the Director, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO. The panellists comprised the Secretary-General of Air and Maritime Transport, Spain; the Director General of International Business Aviation Council (IBAC); the Executive Vice President & Permanent Representative to ICAO, ICCAIA; the Board Director and Chief Financial Officer of EHang; and the Chief Executive Officer of Lanza Tech.

5.8 Discussions were conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Information papers were presented in the language of submission. The report was issued in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

5.9 The Conference delegated authority to the Chairperson to approve the Report.

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