



**Address by the President of the Council
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Roberto Kobeh González,
to the 64th IATA Annual General Meeting/World Air Transport Summit**

(Istanbul, Turkey - 2 June 2008)

It is a pleasure for me to participate in the 2008 World Air Transport Summit. This is actually the second IATA event I attend in two months. In April, I had the opportunity to share a few thoughts with many of you at the Fifth Wings of Change Conference in Santiago.

Although that was just eight weeks ago, it seems that so much has happened since then. The operational context for the industry has become much tighter, particularly with rising fuel costs.

The airline industry is highly resilient and has overcome many challenges in the past. I have no doubt it will do so again. At the same time, the magnitude of the task at hand must not deter us from our shared responsibility for meeting the expectations of the travelling public and shippers for safe, secure, efficient and sustainable air transport.

In the area of safety, we are moving towards a more holistic view, taking into account economic, social and geopolitical realities. And, where imminent safety issues have been identified, States have been asked to deregister aircraft and revoke pilot licences until a robust oversight capability can be demonstrated. We are addressing problems at source and investing precious resources where they are most likely to produce concrete and lasting results.

Underlying this fundamental shift in approach is the excellent and long-standing cooperation with IATA. More recently, this resulted in the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap. Cooperation between our two organizations has also led to other solid initiatives such as the sharing of safety-critical data which is instrumental in proactive accident prevention.

I take this opportunity to thank and commend IATA for its commitment to cooperating with ICAO on all major common issues, another one being of course the environment. I am delighted that we are seeing eye to eye on the overall approach to the problem, in keeping with the Assembly Resolution of last September. We are moving ahead together on the four pillars of the strategy, namely technological innovation, infrastructure advances in air traffic and air navigation systems, operational measures and economic measures.

I wish to emphasize that ICAO is fully aware of its leadership in these areas and I am personally determined to make sure that we meet our responsibilities. This was part of my message to the GIACC, the group on International Aviation and Climate Change created by the last ICAO Assembly. The world is watching and we must absolutely deliver on our mandate of producing an aggressive programme of action. In three days' time, we will be launching the ICAO Carbon Calculator which makes it possible for travellers to calculate their carbon footprint. On 18 and 19 June, in Montreal, we will be holding a workshop bringing together financial, industry and environment experts to discuss international civil aviation in a global carbon market.

There are many more issues on which ICAO and IATA have and will continue to cooperate. Because time is short, I will focus on just one, although it is a critical one to the future growth and health of the industry. It is the anticipated shortage of thousands of pilots, maintenance engineers and air traffic controllers, as well as aviation management personnel to run the airlines, airports and air navigation services organizations that will employ them. Again, I am very happy with the close cooperation between ICAO and IATA in finding solutions, through dialogue with all stakeholders. I believe we are making good progress with new approaches for training in a globally harmonized manner.

Before I conclude, and with your indulgence, I invite you to note on your calendars the Conference on the Economics of Airports and Air Navigation Services that will be held at ICAO Headquarters from 15 to 20 September. The objective is to address regulatory, policy and economic issues of interest to the air transport industry and to review related ICAO policies. As always, I look forward to IATA playing its usual effective role in representing the views and concerns of the airline community.

There is certainly no lack of challenges facing both States and industry. At the same time, there is no lack of determination to overcome them. Change is always stimulating to those committed to bringing about change in a systematic, uniform and above all cohesive manner.

The next two days should again be proof of what we can accomplish by working hand in hand. I wish you a productive meeting.