



**Closing Statement by the President of the Council of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Roberto Kobeh González,
to the ICAO Colloquium on Aviation and Climate Change**

(ICAO Headquarters – 14 May 2010)

Ladies and gentlemen, as President of the Council of ICAO, my message to you at the closing of this meeting is clear: the International Civil Aviation Organization is committed to addressing the impact of international aviation on the global climate.

This Colloquium demonstrates another important step forward to facilitate the achievement of that commitment.

I hope you have benefitted from this event to enrich and inform yourselves and have also made good use of the opportunity to exchange views and knowledge with other participants. Our ultimate objective was to ensure that you were provided with imaginative new ideas, trustworthy information and a wide range of views that you could absorb in order to form a sound basis for the discussions at the upcoming ICAO Assembly, to be held in the fall of this year.

The discussions later this year will not start from zero. Since the 36th Session of the Assembly in 2007, ICAO has shown leadership achieving remarkable progress in the development of concrete actions and tangible global results. A broad range of solutions including technological innovations, operational improvements and market-based instruments have been identified and the integration of the development and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels as a promising option for effectively reducing aviation CO₂ emissions has been considered.

Foremost, we were able to get what no other sector or organization was able to achieve -- the first and only globally-harmonized agreement on a goal to address CO₂ emissions resulting from its activities -- and there still remains the unique opportunity to further progress in our global framework under ICAO for addressing its CO₂ emissions in a cost-effective and timely manner.

We have a plan. We have the willingness of our 190 States and the industry to achieve the sustainability of aviation. ICAO's challenge remains how far and how fast we can go while tackling one of the greatest and most pressing challenges ever to face our global society.

ICAO's role is to facilitate the exchange of information and support States through the provision of policies, guidance and SARPs.

States have brought to our attention new areas such as alternative fuels, financing and adaptation which are being discussed in other organizations. As part of ICAO's leadership role, we want to ensure that up-to-date information is provided to States and that we continue to provide an open and effective forum for the discussion of all areas that touch on aviation environmental protection and might help the sustainability of aviation.

ICAO's concrete actions and tangible global results show the remarkable progress of States and the air transport industry towards efficient and sustainable global aviation under the leadership of the Organization. As we look towards the future it is clear that only through consensus building and global cooperation we can continue to work towards the achievement of environmentally sustainable international aviation.

At the next Assembly, we need to agree on an ICAO policy on aviation and climate change that sets out immediate concrete steps that can be used in the short term but that will also be far reaching, forward looking, tangible and sustainable in the future.

I hope this Colloquium will help in your deliberations at the next Assembly. Have a safe trip home.