



**Opening address by the Council President
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,
to the ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF/2)**

(Montréal, 26 September 2016)

*Distinguished guests and honoured Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second ICAO World Aviation Forum, on the theme of Aviation Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

Last year, the first IWAF concluded on the imperative that all States must effectively implement ICAO global aviation standards and policies, plans and programmes.

This was agreed as being fundamental to States' objectives to achieve a safe, secure, efficient, economically viable, and environmentally sound air transport system.

And it is just as fundamental to helping all nations and regions realize aviation's many benefits, in support of sustainable development and socio-economic prosperity.

As we embark on this year's Forum, we must remind ourselves of the enormous transformational power of aviation to improve the lives of people everywhere.

Air transport connects States to regional and global markets, which in turn enhances travel, tourism and trade.

It helps create and maintain good-paying jobs which, in many instances, help to eradicate poverty and suffering.

It is the most efficient, and at times the only viable means to deliver humanitarian aid in times of crisis.

And for landlocked and small-island developing States especially, it represents a veritable lifeline, a critical aerial bridge to the rest of the world.

As passenger and aircraft volumes are expected to double again by 2030, the impact of civil aviation on global connectivity and socio-economic prosperity will only continue to strengthen.

To manage this growth, safely and efficiently, ICAO has set in place Global Plans for Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Efficiency.

And at this upcoming Assembly, we are expecting further endorsement for similar Global Planning strategies for Aviation Security, Facilitation and Air Transport Economic Development.

By establishing cooperatively agreed targets and priorities, ICAO's Global Plans provide us with useful roadmaps on our path to infrastructure modernization, capacity building, aircraft equipage, policy and regulatory adjustments, and many other air transport goals which require both national commitment and international collaboration.

They also help us to establish long-term investment certainty, for Member States and industry alike.

Such investments, for instance in the area of airport and air navigation infrastructure, will be significant. It is important that these investments produce desired outcomes in terms of safety, efficiency, as well as sustainable returns.

And the related development activities need to be coordinated nationally, regionally and globally. Only in this way can the essential interoperability of our network be protected and enhanced.

This underscores the importance of ICAO's interest and preparedness to help facilitate aviation infrastructure modernization and the highest levels of safety, security, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of national and regional air transport systems.

It is particularly important that installed capacity meets the performance criteria set by ICAO, while remaining consistent with national development frameworks.

This imperative clearly reinforces the need to establish and incorporate civil aviation master plans into national growth or development plans, while taking into consideration ICAO's Global and Regional plans.

By prioritizing aviation development and making it an integral component of national development, States will attain greater air transport connectivity and the socio-economic prosperity it promises.

But we must also note that, despite its undeniable economic significance, and the paramount need to maintain its operational integrity, the aviation sector does not always receive the financial and political support it requires.

As an example, the current level of the annual global development investment earmarked for aviation remains under five per cent.

This is clearly insufficient, by any measure.

We therefore need greater commitments, on behalf of all parties, to partner and finance sustainable aviation development.

And we also need better coordination among donors and partners to improve the efficiency, consistency and certainty surrounding investments in aviation projects.

In this regard, please let me underscore the unique attributes and intellectual capabilities which ICAO can place at the disposal of our Member States and their development partners to help us meet these goals.

As the global platform for international civil aviation policies and activities, ICAO sets the global standards.

We develop and coordinate the implementation of global and regional medium and long-term plans, with clear objectives, deliverables, targets, timelines and accountabilities.

We audit the effective implementation of our Standards and plans, and identify areas of deficiency.

And where deficiencies are identified, we provide the training, capacity building and other assistance programmes to help resolve them, including comprehensive technical cooperation and procurement services.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's second ICAO World Aviation Forum presents an invaluable opportunity to promote bilateral and multilateral synergies, and to establish coordinated and productive Global Partnerships for Aviation Development.

To help us meet these objectives, our world-renowned speakers and panellists will suitably be looking into:

- Identifying specific needs or concerns that stand in the way of progress;
- Developing options to facilitate the funding and financing required to accelerate the effective implementation of ICAO Standards and policies, in support of the *No Country Left Behind* initiative;
- And sharing information and best practices with a view to ensuring sufficient resources for sustainable aviation development.

We must never lose sight of the goal that all States should have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe and reliable air transport. And we owe to the travelling public the assurance of a safe, secure and efficient air service wherever their destination.

This is both the premise of the Chicago Convention, and the *raison d'être* of this Organization.

As we put our hearts and minds to the priorities before us today, let me thank our distinguished speakers and panellists in advance for sharing their valuable insights.

I am certain we will achieve some very useful outcomes, and on that note I wish you all a very productive and engaging Second ICAO World Aviation Forum.

Thank you.