

INNOVATION FAIR 2025

MONTREAL, CANADA | 21-22 SEPTEMBER

SPEAKERS



INNOVATION FAIR 2025

DAY 1 – Sunday, 21 September 2025

Opening and Closing Ceremony



Salvatore Sciacchitano

President of the Council, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano is the sixth President of the ICAO Council. He succeeded Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu on 1 January 2020.

Mr Sciacchitano graduated in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Catania and began his career in aviation in 1980, joining the Italian Airworthiness Authority (RAI) where he held positions of increasing responsibility, serving as the organization's Regulation Director in 1992, then as Technical Director and, in 1996, as Director General.

With the merger of the aviation branch of the Ministry of Transport and RAI and the subsequent establishment of the Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC), Mr. Sciacchitano assumed the position of Deputy Director General. In this position, he played an instrumental role in coordinating the core business divisions of the newly founded structure. He was also entrusted with multiple international mandates, chairing the Permanent Commission of EUROCONTROL, representing Italy in the Management Board of European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), holding the Vice-Presidency of the EUROCONTROL Provisional Council and coordinating the Italian delegation during ICAO Assemblies.

As a result of his extensive experience in aviation international affairs, Mr. Sciacchitano was appointed Executive Secretary of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) in 2010. In February 2019, he joined the Italian Delegation on the Council of ICAO, where he served until assuming his duties as President of the Council.

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Juan Carlos Salazar

Secretary General, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar is the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). He was first appointed for a three-year term starting August 2021. On 11 March 2024, the ICAO Council renewed his appointment for a second consecutive three-year term, which began in August 2024. His career in international civil aviation spans over 27 years in various advisory and leadership roles. Prior to his appointment as Secretary General, Mr. Salazar served as Director General of Aeronautica Civil of Colombia – Aerocivil. For the twelve years before joining Aerocivil, Mr. Salazar was a Senior Advisor to the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority. His professional experience also includes terms as the President of Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), Secretary of the Colombian Civil Aviation Board and Director of its Air Transport Office, Director General of Air Transport at the Colombian Ministry of Transport, Corporate Secretary and Director of the Legal Department of Tampa Cargo (currently known as Avianca Cargo). Mr. Salazar is a lawyer and has earned advanced degrees from Harvard University (master's in public administration - MPA) and McGill University (Master in Air and Space Law - LLM). He is fluent in Spanish, English and French, and speaks basic Arabic.

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Panel 1: Timely development of global policies and standards



Paula Almeida

Chief Executive Officer, JAA Training Organization

With over 20 years of experience in aviation training, Mrs. Almeida joined JAA TO in 2004 and has since held several positions in the organization instrumental in the transformative restructuring of JAA TO, elevating it as the premier ICAO Training Centre of Excellence in Europe. Holds a Master's degree in Adult Education, Leadership and Management (specialization in Executive Leadership from Oxford University). In 2023, the CEO further augmented her legal acumen with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Business Law, as well as adding an Oxford Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to her credentials showcasing a commitment to staying abreast of cutting-edge technology. Mrs. Almeida is the duly reelected Chair of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Steering Committee (TPSC) advocating for an innovative, sustainable and fair program that stimulates multilateral cooperation and Member resilience through global training harmonization. Beyond this scope, her perspective on regulation, innovation, and digitalization sheds light on the capacity-building opportunities for CAAs, training providers and industry stakeholders to embrace digital aviation for a more effective and safer aviation ecosystem.



Mohamed Ellejmi

Network Operations Management, EUROCONTROL

Mohamed ELLEJMI received an Engineering degree in Aeronautics and Computer Science from the French Civil Aviation School (ENAC) in Toulouse in 2000. He also holds Project Management and Program Management certifications from the UK. With international experience in air traffic management, he joined EUROCONTROL in 2006 to work on various research programs. Prior to that, he served as a Project Manager in charge of designing and developing air traffic management systems in Australia. Before becoming a member of the airport unit management team, Mohamed worked on the SESAR program, focusing on various airport-related topics, including A-CDM, Airport Operations, A-SMGCS (routing, safety nets, and guidance), runway management, and virtual and augmented reality applied to Air Traffic Control. Currently, Mohamed supervises the airport work program, including the SESAR contribution. His team provides comprehensive technical and engineering studies to support the network manager's current operations related to the airport domain, and they are also working to prepare for the future by leveraging the research and innovation portfolio of the airport unit.

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Philippe Fonta

Head of Sustainable Aviation and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), Bureau Veritas Aeronautics

Philippe Fonta has over 30 years of experience with private companies, international institutions, standard and policy-making bodies as well as non-governmental organizations. Philippe started his career at Airbus, where he successively undertook responsibilities in Product Services (on-board and flight planning operational documentation) and Commercial (Route studies' performance) directorates. He has then endorsed the roles of Airbus' Director of Environment and Head of Sustainable Development for 11 years. In addition, he acted as the official observer for all aeronautic manufacturers in the process of developing environmental standards within the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) of ICAO. Philippe then joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to drive two flagship projects of that non-for-profit organization: the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI), and the Tire Industry Project (TIP). Philippe recently joined Bureau Veritas (BV), an international leader in testing, inspection and certification. Within BV Aeronautics division, he is developing the Sustainable Aviation and Advanced Air Mobility business unit. Philippe graduated from the French Civil Aviation School (ENAC) as aeronautical engineer (1990) and from the Haute Ecole de Gestion of Geneva where he received the Diploma of Advanced Studies Management Durable in 2019.



Yukako Oishi

Performance engineer, All Nippon Airways

I am a Performance Engineer at All Nippon Airways (ANA). I am responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring fuel efficiency strategies and projects to promote and enhance decarbonization in operations. The purpose of my team is to develop new policies and plans based on analysis of flight data and aircraft performance calculations, leading to data-driven decisions and actions for sustainable operations. Working closely with flight crew and stakeholders, I visualize flight data, calculate aircraft performance, and develop policies and measures to reduce CO2 emissions. As a member of the Flight Operations Standards Department, I also promote decarbonization through operational innovation by changing procedures, issuing and revising regulations that are expected to further reduce CO2 emissions in operations.

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Taku Kawamura

Corporate Sustainability manager, All Nippon Airways

While serving as B777 captain, Mr. Kawamura oversees communicating the ANA Group's ESG management promotion activities internally and externally from the standpoint of a flight crew member.



Erick Ferrandez

EASA Representative to ICAO and Canada

Erick Ferrandez is an aeronautical engineer who spent 14 years in the aviation industry, specialising in Flight Operations, before joining the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). He gained operational experience from both the manufacturer and airline perspectives – working with the Airbus Flight Operations Division and in the Operational Control Centre of US Airways in the United States. Erick joined EASA in 2006. For eight years, he led the development and management of EASA's International Technical Cooperation programmes. He then served as Head of the Safety Intelligence and Performance Department, overseeing the production of the Annual Safety Review (ASR), the EASA Safety Risk Portfolios, and the analysis of security and cybersecurity risks impacting aviation safety. His responsibilities also included coordination of EASA's involvement in safety investigations and leading the Agency's Safety Promotion activities.

From 2017 to 2022, he also served as Programme Manager for Data4Safety, the European Big Data initiative for aviation safety, during its initial design and development phase. Since January 2023, Erick has been based in Montréal as EASA's Permanent Representative to ICAO and Canada.

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Kabbs Twijuke

Representative of Uganda to ICAO and Chair of the ANC ad hoc Working Group on Innovation

Mr. Twijuke is a Commissioner of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) nominated by Uganda in 2016 and has since 2008 served as the Representative of Uganda to International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Prior to joining ANC, he served as a member of the Council of ICAO from 2008 to 2013. His aviation career began in 1979 when he joined the national carrier as a Planning Engineer Trainee. After intensive professional training, he became Planning and Aircraft Maintenance Engineer in 1982 and was subsequently appointed to Head of Engineering and Maintenance Section in 1986. His responsibilities included developing and implementation of engineering policies and procedures and continuing airworthiness in a cost-effective manner. In 1990 he was appointed the Manager for Engineering Development and Planning with the mandate of ensuring that the Airline effectively complied with all regulatory requirements. In 1991, he joined the Uganda CAA as Director of Air Transport. His responsibilities included strategic planning, licensing air operators, advising Government on matters of bilateral and multilateral air services agreements and ratification of international aviation instruments. In 2004, he was appointed the Director for Safety and Security oversight as well as Economic Regulations. He was responsible for among others, formulation and enforcement of national civil aviation regulations, licensing of technical personnel and aviation service providers. Having actively served as a Member of the Air Navigation Commission, Representative of Uganda on ICAO Council and Director of UCAA responsible for the oversight of safety, security and economic regulations, he has an extensive knowledge and experience in the development, adoption and implementation of ICAO Standards and other provisions. Mr. Twijuke holds an honors Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Makerere University, Kampala, and a Master of Science Degree in Air Transport Engineering from Cranfield Institute of Technology, UK. He is a Fellow of the Prestigious Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program, USA (FAA and American University) and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, UK.

Panel 2: Promotion of an environment where innovation in aviation can flourish in all ICAO regions



James Bell

Innovation Strategy Lead, UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

After joining the UK CAA in 2019 to help establish its Innovation Hub, James has continued to drive forward elements of the cultural and organizational change necessary to support and enable innovation in the sector. Since May 2025, James has led the development of a new Innovation Strategy reflecting how the CAA's role and capabilities have evolved since 2019. James is a Chartered Engineer and was awarded a Masters in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Surrey, England in 2010, and has experience across the UK public sector informing future policy with research, innovation, and strategy.



Air General Carlos Enrique Chavez Cateriano

Commander General of the Peruvian Airforce

Born on February 25, 1965, in Arequipa. He entered the Air Force Officers School at the age of 16 in 1982. He graduated in December 1985 as "Gold Wing" of his class. Air General CARLOS ENRIQUE CHÁVEZ CATERIANO, is qualified in Command and Combat Weapons as Fighter Pilot of A-37, Mirage 5 and Mirage 2000 aircraft. Instructor Pilot and Check Pilot of MB-339, A-37B and Mirage 2000 aircraft.

Most important positions held during his career:

- In 2019 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and served as Director General of Logistics.
- In 2020 he served as Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces.
- From December 2020 to August 2021, he held the position of Operations Commander.
- On August 24, 2021, he is appointed as Inspector General FAP.
- On November 24, 2021, he is recognized as Chief of General Staff FAP.
- On November 5, 2023, Lieutenant General CARLOS CHÁVEZ CATERIANO is appointed as Commander General of the Peruvian Air Force.

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Captain George Chiong

Head Industry Relations & Partnerships, Singapore Airlines

Captain George Chiong started his career in Singapore Airlines in 2003 as a cadet pilot and qualified on the B777 fleet in 2006 as a First Officer. He attained command on the A330 in 2016 and is presently qualified on the A350 fleet as a Supervisory Captain. Captain Chiong was appointed Head of Regulatory & International Affairs in Flight Operations Division in 2023 and retitled to his current role in 2024. As the person responsible for external relations in Flight Operations division, Captain Chiong engages and maintains links with industry, including IATA, AAPA, ICAO, partner airlines, regulators and air navigation service providers. Prior to his career in aviation, Captain Chiong worked in the legal profession, having attained a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (S'pore) in 1997 and was called to the Singapore Bar in 1998. He worked in a business restructuring and insolvency practice until 2003.



Julian Lucchesi

Director Strategic Partnerships & Open Innovation, Centech

Julian holds engineering degrees from prestigious universities in France and Canada. Passionate about partnerships, innovation, and entrepreneurship, he has an extensive background in project management and business development initiatives. His expertise spans roles at a major aerospace firm and a global leader in engineering consulting and R&D services. Currently serving as the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Open Innovation at Centech, a world-class deep tech incubator in Montreal, Julian orchestrates strategic efforts to enhance revenue growth and forge robust partnerships with industry leaders and private stakeholders. His leadership fosters impactful collaborations and value creation, significantly advancing the tech ecosystem across Quebec and Canada.



Nathalie Sébastien

Chief Executive Officer, Martinique Aimé Césaire Airport

Nathalie Sébastien is the Chief Executive Officer of the Martinique Aimé Césaire Airport since 2023. She joined the airport in 2014 as CFO and was later appointed Deputy General Manager in 2018. She is a strong advocate of economic development and enhanced customer experience through innovation. This philosophy has been central to her mandate as CEO. Nathalie Sébastien has extensive experience in aviation, commercial strategy and finance, having previously held senior positions in audit, consulting and technology companies. Beyond her role at the airport, Nathalie Sébastien is an active leader in the business community. She is a Member of the Board of ACI-LAC and serves as Vice-president of MEDEF in Martinique, France's leading network of entrepreneurs. She also presides over the MEDEF Women Entrepreneurs' Network in Martinique and dedicates her time as a volunteer mentor for young business leaders. Nathalie Sébastien graduated from ESCP Business School with a Master in Management (flagship Grande Ecole program). She also holds a Master of Research in Economics from Université Grenoble Alpes.



Selda Seçkinler Oba

Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) at Istanbul Airport

Selda Seçkinler Oba is a distinguished senior executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in human resources, organizational strategy, and corporate governance. She currently serves as Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) at Istanbul Airport, one of the world's largest aviation hubs.

Before joining Istanbul Airport, Selda was CHRO and Vice President at Kale Holding, also serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, where she oversaw HR, Administrative Affairs, and Health & Safety for 11 companies and 6,000 employees. Her earlier career includes serving as CHRO of Kibar Holding, with responsibility for 24 companies and 7,000 employees, as well as leadership roles at POSCO ASSAN TST, Aksa Akrilik, and EGSBANK. She began her professional journey at Yapı Kredi Bank, building her foundation in internal audit before moving into transformative HR leadership.

Throughout her career, Selda has led large-scale transformation projects including the implementation of global grading and performance systems (HAY, Watson Wyatt), executive coaching for senior leadership teams, the design of compensation and benefits strategies, and the launch of employee engagement and development programs. She is also a Six Sigma Champion and has integrated continuous improvement methodologies into people

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processes.

She holds an Executive MBA from Koç University, an executive coaching certification from the Academy of Executive Coaching (London), and specialized training at Loughborough University through a British Consulate scholarship. A graduate of Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) in Public Administration, she has complemented her academic foundation with international executive programs including Franklin Covey Leadership, Co-Active Coaching, NLP Mastery, and Six Sigma.

As a visionary HR leader, Selda is passionate about designing future-ready, human-centered organizations where innovation, inclusivity, and resilience define corporate culture. Today at Istanbul Airport, she is at the forefront of building next-generation talent ecosystems for aviation, ensuring that the airport not only leads in operations but also in shaping the future of work and leadership in the global aviation industry.

Panel 3: Make Innovations known and accessible to all States



Nina Brooks

Executive Vice President and Permanent Representative of ICCAIA to ICAO

Nina Brooks is Executive Vice President and Permanent Representative of ICCAIA to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In this role, she represents the interests of the aerospace manufacturers and service providers, actively participating in the activities of ICAO including the Air Navigation Commission, Council, high level meetings and events. Nina has extensive experience in aviation, in particular innovation and new technologies, safety, security, facilitation and cybersecurity. Nina is passionate about bringing new talent into aviation and aerospace and is Chair of the Global Aviation and Aerospace Skills Taskforce (GAAST), addressing current and future workforce challenges. Nina was previously Vice President, Security, Facilitation and Innovation at ACI World, providing guidance and support to the airport community, representing airports' interests, and encouraging innovation at airports. Prior to ACI, Nina worked for IATA, as Head of Security and Facilitation Projects, representing airlines at ICAO, and working on projects and initiatives relating to passenger data, aviation security and cybersecurity. Her aviation career started at Virgin Atlantic Airways in the UK, in the Government Affairs Team. Nina has a background in project management and information technology.



Adefunke Adeyemi

Secretary General, African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)

Adefunke Adeyemi was elected and appointed the Secretary-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) resuming office on 1st September 2022. AFCAC is the Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) on all Civil Aviation matters and the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). Her role is to promote Safety, Security, Air Transport Liberalization, Environmental protection and overall sustainability of the African Air Transport sector across the continent. In November 2024, during AFCAC's 35th Plenary Ordinary Session, she was re-elected for another three-year term, reaffirming her exemplary leadership and commitment to advancing African civil aviation. With an international career spanning over 25 years, Adefunke has been recognized as one of the 100 Most Inspirational African Women. She was also honoured as one of the 200 globally Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) in affiliation with the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent. She is also the 2021 Recipient of the Ato Girma Wake Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to African Air Transport and Trade development. She studied Law at the University of Lagos, Nigeria and qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Nigerian Supreme Court in 1998, holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the prestigious University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Nanyang Business School, Singapore in collaboration with Wharton Business School, Philadelphia and Berkeley Hass Business School, California.



Captain Victor Liu

Director-General of Civil Aviation, Hong Kong, China

Captain Victor Liu has over 30 years of aviation experience. Before taking up the position of Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), he has held different senior management positions in various technical divisions of the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department. Victor graduated from the University of Hong Kong. He also holds a Specialized Master's degree in aviation safety (Aircraft Airworthiness) from the Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC), France. He is a professional pilot with experience in scheduled airlines, business charter as well as search and rescue operations. He is also a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. Victor is currently a Board Member of the Airport Authority Hong Kong and was formerly the Chairman of the ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Group, and the Vice President – Asia of the International Federation of Airworthiness.

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Etienne Leclerc-Jolette

Vice President Partnerships & Strategy, CRIAQ

Etienne discovered the world of aerospace during his studies in industrial engineering. Through his work experiences in industry, at CRIAQ and in management consulting, he has helped several organizations bring their innovative projects to fruition. As Vice President of CRIAQ, Etienne oversees and develops the organization's portfolio of projects and partnerships. This portfolio represents over 50 active collaborative R&D projects and a network of 150 members from industry and academia. Etienne has participated in various training courses, conferences and trade shows, both locally and internationally.



Fernando Mitkiewicz

Head of Technology and Digital Transformation, Brazil National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC)

Fernando Mitkiewicz is the Head of Technology and Digital Transformation at Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC), Lecturer at Mackenzie University Brasília, and board member of the Digital Leaders Network of Brazil. Former Secretary of Digital Government, he led the federal digital government strategy, helping Brazil reach a top global position in digital maturity. At ANAC, he is leading a new wave of digital transformation in aviation services through internal startups, a new digital service architecture, SuperApp and strategic use of AI. Previously, he led the digitalization of the Ministry of Infrastructure. In the private sector, he held roles in innovation, marketing, sales, consulting, and project management. Fernando holds a degree in Electrical Engineering, an MBA in Strategic Marketing, and a specialization in Innovation Management from Germany's Steinbeis School of Business.

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Toska Sem

Executive Director, Namibia Civil Aviation Authority

In 2022, she took on the role of Executive Director at the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority and serves as the Vice President of the African Civil Aviation Bureau. A well-respected professional with over twenty years of experience in the aviation industry, she holds a master's in business administration from the University of Stellenbosch. Her extensive career includes various executive positions such as Executive Commercial in airport operations, Airport Manager, and Organizational Strategist. She has made significant contributions to several international aviation platforms and possesses a robust governance background, currently serving on multiple boards in both the public and private sectors. Additionally, she is a passionate advocate for the advancement of women and youth.



Vipin Kumar

Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Mr. Vipin Kumar, an accomplished civil servant of Indian Administrative Services 1996 batch, has a distinguished career in public administration, infrastructure development, and aviation management. Currently serving as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), he brings deep expertise and strategic leadership to his role. As the Chairman of AAI, he is the driving force behind one of the world's largest airport operator and ATM-CNS service provider, managing over 130 airports. Since assuming his role, Shri Kumar's strategic focus has been on enhancing AAI's operational capabilities, thereby contributing to the national vision of "Developed India by 2047". In this context, he is spearheading initiatives to improve the financial health of the organization, to upskill the manpower, to upgrade existing airports and establish new ones and to ensure that they meet international standards for safety, efficiency, and passenger comfort. His leadership is also instrumental in charting the roadmap for the Indian aviation sector's growth, with a particular emphasis on regional connectivity, integrating cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices.

Under his astute guidance, the Airports Authority of India is not just building airports; it is building bridges to connect dreams, fuel economic growth, and propel India towards becoming a global aviation hub. His credentials are further strengthened by his academic and professional training, including a Bachelor's degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering, a course on Public Policy from Harvard University, and specialized studies in Cyber



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	<p>Security. Coupled with a distinguished career in administration, he has inculcated a deep understanding of both governance and technical systems, which positions him as a dynamic leader capable of navigating the complex challenges of the aviation industry, evident in his methodical approach to addressing the infrastructure development challenges. Mr. Kumar's work in advancing Airport Facilities and Air Navigation Systems, along with his policy formulation background, aligns with ICAO's vision of fostering sustainable airport economics and safe air travel. Under his leadership, AAI continues to strengthen its collaboration with international bodies to share expertise, contribute to policy development, and foster a unified approach to aviation challenges. With a proven track record in managing large-scale projects and a strong grasp of both the technical and economic aspects of aviation, Mr. Kumar brings a wealth of experience to the table. His keen insight into the challenges and opportunities facing airports enables him to contribute valuable ideas and practical solutions that can help shape the future of aviation worldwide.</p>
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DAY 2 – Monday, 22 September 2025

High Level discussion on Innovation in Aviation

Christian Schleifer-Heingärtner

Council Representative of Austria and the ABIS group at ICAO



Christian started his aviation career 36 years ago as Avionics Maintenance Engineer and currently is the Representative of Austria and the Abis Group on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Next to his role as Council member, he was appointed as chair of the ICAO Group on Innovation as well as the Industry Consultative Forum responsible for the collaboration with the industry on strategy inputs. He also got elected to chair the ICAO Committee on Joint Support of Air Navigation Services (JSC). Between 2014 and 2022 Christian Schleifer served as the Director General and CEO of EUROCAE, a leading international Standard Developing Organisation (SDO), specialised in high quality and safety critical standards, based in Paris/France. In this role he was responsible for the operational management, development, restructuring and growth of EUROCAE. From 2009 until 2013 Christian was appointed as Air Navigation Commissioner (ANC) at ICAO. During 2012 and 2013 as President of the Air Navigation Commission, he was responsible for developing Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in the field of Air Navigation and Safety. Prior to his posting at ICAO, Christian oversaw Aircraft and Equipment Certification, Airworthiness and Operational Requirements at the Austrian Civil Aviation Authority (Austro Control). In this role, Christian was a specialised Certification and Flight Test Engineer for Avionics, Electrics and Human-Machine interface. After his return from ICAO, he was involved in the strategic development of the ATM part of Austro Control, contributing to the European and Global Air Navigation modernisation programmes. Being an avid supporter of the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP), Christian initiated the development of a department for Aviation Electronics (Avionic) at Vienna's Donaustadt-Akademie. He is also an academic lecturer at the Joanneum University of Applied Science in Graz/Austria. Christian has a background in Electronic Engineering and holds a Commercial Pilot License (CPL), actively flying single and multi-engine aircrafts. Besides his technical and operational aviation background, he holds a Global Executive MBA in Economics from the University of Minnesota and the Vienna University. He complemented his education with several management training courses at MIT, Mc Gill and other Universities.



Pip Spence

Chief Executive Officer and Director of Aviation Safety at Civil Aviation Safety Authority Australia (CASA)

Pip Spence was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Director of Aviation Safety for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in May 2021. CASA is the independent statutory authority responsible for maintaining and ensuring aviation safety in Australia. Under her leadership, CASA is committed to being a safety authority that is focused, transparent, collaborative, and actively engaged with industry and the broader aviation community. Pip's extensive career in public service ranges from complex program delivery, policy development and legislative reform and regulatory oversight. Before joining CASA, she was a Deputy Secretary at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. Pip's leadership reflects a clear vision: to foster a culture of safety that is built on trust, mutual respect, and open dialogue – ensuring that CASA remains a modern, responsive, and effective aviation safety authority



Bertrand de Lacombe

Head of Regulatory and External engagement, Airbus

Bertrand de LACOMBE has always worked in the field of transport, mainly in European and international affairs. After having begun his career at car manufacturer PSA Peugeot Citroën, he spent 8 years at SNCF (French railways), where he occupied various functions, mainly for the management of regional trains and for European affairs. In 2007, he joined the French administration, appointed diplomatic advisor of the French minister of Transports. From 2009 to 2013, he was Transport Counselor at the French Permanent Representation to the European Union (Brussels). He was then hired by Aéroports de Paris (Paris Airports) as Director of Public affairs. In 2015, he was appointed Director in charge of international cooperation of the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC, French Civil Aviation Authority). In 2019, still in DGAC, he took the position of Director of European and International affairs. In 2023-2024, he was seconded to the DG Move of the European Commission, in charge of international air agreements. He joined Airbus in October 2024.

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Nari Williams-Singh

Director General, Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority - and President of A40

Mr. Nari Williams-Singh joined the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) in 1997 as an Aviation Safety Inspector. He has amassed a wealth of experience in the air transport industry, in aircraft maintenance, regulatory oversight and civil aviation administration. His successful career at the JCAA has spanned various assignments of progressive responsibility, with appointments as Manager – Airworthiness; Director - Flight Safety; Deputy Director General – Regulatory Affairs and Director General. Mr. Williams- Singh has held the position of Director General of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) since October 2014. He serves on the Boards of the JCAA, AEROTEL Limited (a subsidiary of the JCAA) and is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS). Mr. Williams-Singh's was elected and served as President of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) (40th) General Assembly in 2019. In 2022 Jamaica was elected to the Council of ICAO and Mr. Williams-Singh has been a Member of the Delegation representing Jamaica on the ICAO Council for the 2022-2025 triennium.




Ibrahim Yimer

Vice-President Transportation and Manufacturing, National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and Past Chair of International Forum for Aviation Research (IFAR)

Dr. Ibrahim Yimer is currently Vice President of the Division of Transportation and Manufacturing at the National Research Council of Canada - Canada's largest federal research and development organization with over 2000 scientists and engineers, advancing innovation in life sciences, engineering, transportation and emerging technologies. For the past 15 years, Dr. Yimer has held positions of increasing responsibility at the NRC, including Director General of the Aerospace Research Center and Director of the Gas Turbine Laboratory. Dr. Yimer has successfully led the creation and implementation of various large-scale, R&D partnerships with industry and government stakeholders both nationally and internationally. As a renowned expert in the field of gas turbine combustion, he has been recognized by the Public Service Award of Excellence from the Governor General of Canada for Scientific Contribution to the 100% Biofuel Flight Demonstration, in 2013. He is also well recognized in the Aerospace science and technology community where he currently serves in the Board



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	<p>of Directors of Aero Montreal, Past Chair of the International Forum for Aviation Research (IFAR), and Advisory Committees of Aerospace Programs in Canadian Universities that includes WISA at the University of Waterloo and CIADI in Concordia University. Dr. Yimer holds an MSc and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.</p>
	<p>Andreas Boschen <i>Executive Director, SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking</i></p> <p>Starting his professional career as a diplomat in Germany, Andreas Boschen joined the European Commission in 1998. Since 2003 he has been dealing with transport files and he held several notable positions in DG MOVE, including policy officer for the Single European Sky, policy officer for maritime safety and assistant to the Director-General of DG MOVE.</p> <p>Between 2014 and 2022, Boschen led the department for the Connecting Europe Facility at the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), where he managed EU financial support to infrastructure projects in the areas of transport and energy.</p> <p>On 1 July 2022, Andreas Boschen started as Executive Director of the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking.</p>



Poppy Khoza

Director of Civil Aviation, South African Civil Aviation Authority – and President of A41

Ms. Poppy Khoza is the Director of Civil Aviation (DG) at the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), having been re-appointed by the South African Government for a third successive five-year term starting on 1 December 2023. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Khoza has demonstrated exceptional leadership, chairing two significant ICAO panels—the Aviation Security Panel and the High-Level Conference on the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, she made history by becoming the first woman to preside over the ICAO General Assembly since the organization’s inception in 1944. Her trailblazing work has earned her numerous accolades, including the 2023 IATA Inspirational Role Model Award – Diversity and Inclusion Awards, the Aviation Sector and Regional Leader Award, Best Chief Executive Officer Awards, Top Empowered Business Leader, Public Service Leader of the Year, and recognition as South Africa’s Most Influential Woman in Business and Government within Agencies and Regulatory Authorities.

Ms. Khoza was also the inaugural recipient of the Flight Safety Foundation’s Gloria Heath Award, which celebrates notable female achievements in civil aviation and her leadership in promoting gender diversity within the industry. Her contributions to the development of aviation in Africa have been recognized by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the AFI group. A passionate advocate for gender equality in aviation globally, Ms. Khoza has led the transformation of the SACAA, which now consists of 51% female employees and boasts 50% women in Executive Management roles. She played a pivotal role in conceptualizing and implementing the first-ever Global Aviation Gender Summit, held in August 2018 in South Africa, in collaboration with ICAO, UNESCO, and UN Women.

Under Ms. Khoza’s stewardship, the SACAA has received the Best Performing Institution in Transport Award on four occasions and has achieved eleven clean audits over 12 financial years from the Auditor-General of South Africa, reflecting strong corporate governance. Her visionary leadership continues to position the SACAA as a benchmark for excellence in the aviation industry, both in South Africa and globally.

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Panel 4: Strengthening ICAO's engagement with stakeholders



Inji Yaghmour

Team Leader - International Organizations Hosting Policy, Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie

Expert in International Relations, with competence in the field of innovation, communication, international and business development Inji Yaghmour is team leader of Hospitality Policy for International Organizations at the ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec. Among her key projects, she fosters collaboration between international organisations in civil aviation established in Montréal and Québec's aerospace ecosystems. In her previous mandate she contributed to international collaboration in research and innovation between Québec and Germany, particularly in the field of aerospace, AI and health. She has been the secretary of Québec's interministerial committee for the pre-negotiations of what is now known as CETA. She has a background in business administration and has accumulated more than 25 years of experience in the establishment of partnerships between Québec and international partners.



Anna von Groote

Director General, EUROCAE

Anna von Groote joined the EUROCAE Secretariat in 2011, and since 2022 she has been the Director General. Before joining EUROCAE, she worked at the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) since 2006, where she assumed responsibilities for the organization's work programme in different sectors. In her role as Programme Manager at CEN, she was responsible amongst others for the aerospace and air traffic management sector. Anna holds a Master's degree in European Studies from the Centre for European Integration Studies / University of Bonn (Germany) and a Master of Laws LLM in Technology and Intellectual Property Law from the University of Liverpool (UK).

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Valdís Ásta Aðalsteinsdóttir

Representative, Nordic Delegation to ICAO and Chairperson of the Council Committee on Governance

Ms. Valdís Ásta Aðalsteinsdóttir has over 30 years of experience across a wide spectrum of aviation and leaderships related businesses, with both public and private sector perspectives. She has held leading change management posts in organizations and is the first woman to be Iceland's Representative on the Council of ICAO.

From October 2019, Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir has been a part of the NORDICAO rotation group and served as Alternate Representative of the Republic of Finland on the Council until 1 October 2022 when she became the Representative of Iceland on the Council of ICAO. She served as Chairperson (September 2024- September 2025) and Vice-Chairperson (September 2023- September 2024) of the Committee on Governance.

In addition, Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir actively engaged in a number of important small groups of the ICAO Council, including ICAO's Leadership in Economic Development of Air Transport, Gender Equality and the Lessons Learned from the 41st Assembly. She was also the European group coordinator from January - July 2023. From 2004 until her appointment as Alternate Representative on the Council of ICAO she held various positions in the Icelandic Civil Aviation Authority (now the Icelandic Transport Authority – ICETRA). Among her professional experience, Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir has served as ICAA's Public Relations Manager, Manager Special Projects, Director Customer Service Division as well as being a member of ICETRA's Executive team. She was Iceland's Aviation Council's Secretary for seven years and around ten years of experience with Icelandair in various positions from ground handling to Project Manager. Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir is a Bachelor of Art graduate in sociology from the University of Iceland and has two Diplomas in Human Resource Management and Public Administration. She has taken part in various seminars regarding management training, change management, public and information rights, management systems, human factor and human relations, quality and risk-based management, as well as internal and external audits. During Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir's vast experience in the field, she has gained general knowledge of international aviation cooperation and of ICAO's Council's procedures. Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir was nominated for Stjórnvísir 2019, Icelandic Management Award. Ms. Aðalsteinsdóttir remains strongly committed to support ICAO's work and to promote a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation in a transparent and efficient way. The challenges civil aviation is facing today gives ICAO an even bigger role as a strong global facilitator, which calls for a strong commitment from all ICAO Member States. Let's all fly again!

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Olivier Paillot

General Manager for Americas, OpenAirlines

For over 10 years at OpenAirlines, I have helped airlines worldwide reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions by identifying and implementing best practices that improve operational efficiency. My focus has been on supporting airlines in accelerating their transition toward more sustainable operations through collaborative engagement and data-driven solutions. I look forward to sharing how meaningful partnerships and innovation can help drive measurable environmental impact across the aviation industry.



Juliana Braz

International Business Development Lead at SERPRO, Brazil

Government technology executive with over 15 years of experience leading the digital transformation of critical government systems. Graduated in Computer Science with a Postgraduate degree in Big Data Analytics and certifications in Project Management and Business Analysis, joined Serpro in 2010, and has played a fundamental role in modernizing Brazil's technological infrastructure, including systems that support transportation sector operations. In 2021, made a strategic transition to international business, applying her solid technological foundation to lead Serpro's global expansion projects. Currently manages international cooperation initiatives in digital government, connecting Brazilian solutions to global markets and establishing strategic partnerships with countries across all continents.

Combines deep knowledge in mission-critical systems with a global vision of digital transformation, positioning herself as an expert at the intersection of government technology, cybersecurity, and international innovation.

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Kaouthar Benameur

International Cooperation Officer, Senior Research Fellow, ONERA, France and IFAR Advisory Team member

Kaouthar Benameur serves as Cooperation Officer at ONERA, where she plays a key role in promoting the institution's research activities and strengthening its collaborative initiatives. She advises ONERA's President, as well as the technical and scientific directorates, on international policy and strategic directions related to ONERA's research programs and emerging opportunities for international cooperation. Kaouthar is an active member of the advisory team for the International Forum for Aviation Research (IFAR), contributing to the development and execution of its work programme.

With over 25 years of experience in the Aerospace and Defence (ASD) sector, Kaouthar brings deep expertise across research, policy, and international collaboration. She joined ONERA in 2003 as a research engineer specializing in intelligent sensing and decision making. Prior to that, she spent seven years as a defense scientist at Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), following her early career as a spectrum engineer at Industry Canada. Kaouthar holds a Ph.D. in Systems and Control from McGill University, Canada.

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Panel 5: Generation 2050

Sophia Olmos

Manager, Environmental Protection, Airports Council International (ACI) World



Sophia is currently supporting the work of the ACI's World Environment Standing Committee (WEnSC), where airport members from all regions come together to work on sustainability matters, from energy transition and decarbonization, circular economy, adaptation and resilience, to wildlife trafficking prevention and ESG reporting, to name a few. She is also supporting ACI's contributions to the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP).

Previously, she held positions at the French Civil Aviation Authority and the French Parliament and worked for four years at the International Civil Aviation Organization, serving as Environment and Climate Expert at the Permanent Representation of France to ICAO then as Associate Environment Officer in the ICAO Secretariat.

She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Law from Université Paris-Saclay and earlier completed Political Science and International Relations studies at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne.

Amy Strang

Environment and Sustainability Marketing Manager, Airbus



Amy Strang is a passionate sustainability champion in the aviation industry, where she combines technical knowledge with a strategic mindset to deliver meaningful, eco-conscious results. Her global experience on the Airbus ZEROe team and in Air New Zealand's Fleet Strategy team has given her a unique perspective on the industry's challenges and opportunities, which she now applies as an Environment and Sustainability Marketing Manager at Airbus. In this role, she works directly with customers to provide key insights and capture market feedback, which she then utilizes to support the development of Airbus' sustainability offering. Amy is also a passionate advocate for diversity, actively supporting women and young professionals in their journey to leadership. Following the Generation 2050 panel, she will announce an exciting new network for which she is both Founder and Chair - stay tuned to hear more!

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Casey Ferriter

Programme Manager, Global Aviation and Aerospace Skills Taskforce (GAAST)

Casey Ferriter is a sustainability and international development professional based in Montreal, Quebec. With a strong background in policy advocacy and responsible resource development, she has built a career at the intersection of global development, sustainability, and industry innovation.

Casey began her career with Engineers Without Borders Canada, where she focused on improving Canada's international development policies. She later joined Mining Shared Value; a non-profit initiative aimed at enhancing local procurement practices in the mining sector. For the past two years, Casey has brought her expertise to the aviation sector, managing sustainable projects and programs with Airports Council International (ACI) World and the Global Aviation & Aerospace Skills Task Force (GAAST). Her work supports the industry's global transition toward more sustainable practices, helping the industry worldwide implement innovative and forward-thinking initiatives. Casey is passionate about systems change, sustainability, and aligning private sector practices with global development goals.

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