



**Pre-Recorded Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the International Air Transport Cooperation (CIAT)**

24-25 July 2025

1. As Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, I am honoured to have this opportunity to encourage you in your deliberations at this crucial eighth edition of the Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation.
2. For over two decades, the Republic of Korea Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) has hosted this vital forum.
3. Now, cooperation has never been more essential to the continued development of our industry.
4. Consider the integration of artificial intelligence and digital technologies into aviation operations.
5. Last November, delegates at ICAO's AI in the SKY event recognized how critical it is to unite government officials, industry leaders, innovators, and *yes* disruptors.
6. They worked together to explore the safe and effective use of this technology, and identified pathways for AI to enhance airspace efficiency, improve safety and security and ensure the sustainable growth of aviation.
7. I would like to discuss these three priority areas we need to address together as aviation leaders.
8. Firstly, let's discuss enhancing airspace efficiency. The expected dramatic growth in global air cargo operations is another current reason why working together has never been so important.

9. ICAO forecasts indicate that air freight volumes could grow at 3.2% annually through 2050, driven largely by e-commerce that has fundamentally altered global supply chains.
10. The e-commerce boom has benefited from air cargo services tremendously, but it has also raised customer expectations for quick response times, flexible services, and complete supply chain transparency.
11. As this growth stabilizes, States must work together to enhance cross-border trade facilitation, through coordinated policies and infrastructure investments to enhance efficiency.
12. This cooperation becomes even more critical when we consider the evolving security landscape, which leads us to our second key priority which is improving aviation security.
13. The threat environment in cargo and mail has become increasingly complex, as evidenced by incidents involving improvised incendiary devices in July 2024.
14. These challenges require harmonized responses through layered, risk-based approaches anchored in ICAO's Annex 17 that protect civil aviation, while maintaining the free flow of goods.
15. Now, let's discuss the third key priority, the sustainable growth of aviation. Climate change is aviation's greatest current challenge, and it is uniting us in new ways, deepening our ties, and bringing new stakeholders into our cooperative community.
16. Let me put it another way: achieving net zero carbon emissions from international aviation by 2050, as we have decided to do, will require us to redefine how we work, with whom, and why.
17. The convening of this conference is extremely timely, with the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly rapidly approaching this September. This means you have a crucial opportunity here to set some of the groundwork for the deliberations that will take place in Montréal.
18. I would like to encourage you to take inspiration from our generous hosts today.
19. Earlier this year, the Republic of Korea leading oil refiners outlined plans for the joint development of a facility for sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF.

20. Meanwhile, the Republic of Korea's policy proposal toward SAF blending requirements from 2027 is world leading, as is its designation of SAF as a national strategic technology.
21. Furthermore, next month's Clean Energy Ministerial and Mission Innovation communities gathering in Busan will provide an excellent platform to build on this progress and exchange expertise with others.
22. Indeed, all of these initiatives provide examples that others can emulate, as national action ramps up to support the international community's objectives.
23. These include the commitment, through the ICAO cleaner energy Global Framework, to achieve a 5% reduction in international aviation CO₂ emissions by 2030 through SAF, lower carbon and other aviation cleaner energies.
24. These energies are absolutely essential to our Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, as they are expected to provide over half of the necessary CO₂ emission reductions.
25. The breadth and complexity of the challenges we face are among the reasons why I encourage you to seize this opportunity to explore new and flexible frameworks for cooperation.
26. We need innovative solutions, which means rethinking how we work together as a sector and how we collaborate with those other economic and political actors that are crucial to our progress.
27. Of course, this is also a cherished opportunity to renew and deepen those existing ties that have served us so well over recent years, and indeed decades.
28. I therefore now wish you enriching and encouraging discussions over the next two days, and look forward to seeing many of you in Montréal for the ICAO Assembly in September.
29. Thank you.