



**Closing Remarks by Secretary General
To the Fourth Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF/4)**

1. We now bring the Fourth Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum to a close.
2. Over the past three days, CALAF/4 has provided a particularly rich and forward-looking platform for reflection, dialogue, and professional exchange among the global aviation legal community, bringing together participants from many Member States, industry and international organizations.
3. This edition of CALAF has been especially significant, not only because of the breadth and quality of the discussions, but also because this Forum has evolved further in its scope and participation.
4. For the first time, CALAF was opened more broadly to industry stakeholders, in addition to legal advisers working within civil aviation administrations. I believe this was both timely and valuable.
5. The participation of representatives from airlines, law firms, manufacturers, insurers, academia, and other industry partners greatly enriched our discussions and reinforced an important reality.
6. The legal challenges facing international aviation today increasingly require collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches.
7. The diversity of perspectives shared throughout this Forum has clearly demonstrated the importance of maintaining an open dialogue between regulators, States, and industry as we collectively navigate the rapidly evolving aviation landscape.
8. Throughout the Forum, several recurring themes emerged.
9. One of these was the increasing complexity of the legal environment surrounding international aviation.

10. Our discussions on emerging litigation trends demonstrated how evolving disputes, judicial interpretations, and legislative developments continue to shape and, in some instances, challenge the consistency and predictability of international air law frameworks.
11. At the same time, our exchanges on liberalization and the future of international air transport highlighted the importance of ensuring that legal and regulatory structures remain capable of supporting innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth while maintaining fairness and resilience within the global aviation system.
12. Another key theme throughout CALAF/4 was the evolving role of the aviation legal adviser.
13. The Counsels Roundtable provided particularly insightful reflections on the realities of advising under pressure, balancing legal rigor with operational and political considerations, and navigating increasingly complex institutional environments.
14. The discussions reminded us that legal advisers are not only interpreters of rules, but strategic actors who contribute directly to institutional stability, governance, and decision-making.
15. It is clear that legal frameworks must continue to evolve alongside operational and technological developments.
16. In many respects, the conversations held during this Forum reflected the broader theme of CALAF/4: “The Future of International Civil Aviation: Legal Trends and Institutional Resilience.”
17. This theme captured well the central message emerging from our discussions: that legal frameworks are not merely reactive instruments, but essential enablers of the future development of aviation.
18. I believe the exchanges over the past few days demonstrate that CALAF continues to play a critical role in providing a dedicated global platform specifically focused on the role and work of civil aviation legal advisers.
19. It is my hope that the relationships established and strengthened during these past days will continue beyond Nassau and will contribute to closer cooperation among legal practitioners across all regions.

20. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary support and hospitality of our host State.
21. On behalf of the ICAO Secretariat, I would therefore like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Civil Aviation Authority of The Bahamas (CAA-B) and all those who contributed to the organization of this Forum.
22. The warmth, professionalism, and generosity extended to all participants have been truly exceptional.
23. The Bahamas has provided not only an outstanding venue for our deliberations, but also a welcoming environment that encouraged open dialogue, collegiality, and collaboration.
24. I would also like to thank all moderators, speakers, panelists, coordinators, and participants for the remarkable quality of the discussions and for the openness with which experiences and perspectives were shared.
25. Your contributions are what made this Forum a success.
26. Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the ICAO Secretariat and all supporting teams whose dedication and hard work made CALAF/4 possible.
27. As we conclude this edition of CALAF, the work of aviation legal advisers will only continue to grow in complexity and importance in the years ahead.
28. The challenges facing international aviation are evolving rapidly, but so too are the opportunities for cooperation, innovation, and progress.
29. I am confident that the discussions held during these past days will contribute meaningfully to strengthening the legal foundations of international civil aviation and to supporting a safe, secure, sustainable, and resilient future for air transport.
30. And now it is my great pleasure to announce the host of the fifth CALAF. Next year's host will be Nigeria. We will now see a video showcasing next year's event.

31. I thank you once again for your participation and engagement, and I wish you all safe travels home.
32. It is pleasure to invite Captain Chris Ona Najomo, Director General of Civil Aviation of Nigeria, to join me for the signing ceremony.