



**Keynote by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the Berlin Air Summit
*9 June 2026***

1. I am grateful for this opportunity to address you and support your decisive leadership as we transform aviation together.
2. As the chief executive of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, I am honoured to address the leaders who will be realizing the international community's vision for sustainable, and thriving, air transport.
3. Set through an international agreement, our vision is to deliver safe and secure air transport for all by 2050, with – and let me be very clear on this – net zero carbon emissions from international aviation.
4. This vision was unanimously supported by a record 192 ICAO Member States at our ICAO Assembly last October.
5. This means we have an unprecedented mandate and opportunity to lead on sustainability and innovation for generations to come.
6. Through our studies, we know aircraft technology could offer about 20% of the emission reductions we need to achieve net-zero.
7. ICAO's primary responsibility in this area will be to ensure that the technical standards we write not only accommodate the innovation behind these potential reductions, but also encourage it.

8. ICAO is uniting the world's leading experts to ensure environmental standards keep pace with innovation.
9. We are continually updating and revitalizing these standards, embedding both immediate and long-term measures into strategic alignment.
10. Through our global forums and capacity-building efforts, we also ensure States and industry partners can engage early and access resources and best practices to succeed.
11. We are proud of the progress we are already seeing with our partners.
12. Through ICAO, the lessons learned are shared, so every ICAO Member State can benefit, supporting widespread innovation.
13. Our ability to bring the entire world's regulatory agencies and industry together is one of our key strengths.
14. When new aircraft emerge, ICAO coordinates frameworks and harmonizes standards, working to enable all States and stakeholders to move forward together. Electric or hybrid propulsion, including eVTOLs, are among the spectacular technologies we are helping manufacturers to export and operators to implement.
15. ICAO also strongly promotes and supports the scaling-up of sustainable aviation fuels and facilitates partnerships for financing through our ICAO FINVEST hub.
16. This is how we are enabling the adoption of cleaner and quieter technologies globally.
17. We are harmonizing and streamlining the safe introduction of next-generation aircraft through dynamic, adaptable procedures and roadmaps.
18. We are also providing frameworks for airports to work with local energy hubs and research partners on practical hydrogen trials, including storage, incident simulation, and emergency planning.
19. I also want to highlight that we are supporting innovation at the operational level.

20. Our studies show that operational improvements typically deliver a 5–15% reduction in aviation emissions.
21. These are innovations that we could implement today.
22. They do not depend on the arrival of new aircraft technology or advanced energies.
23. This means that we have an immediate and important opportunity to cut emissions – and costs – and show real and urgent progress towards our net zero goal.
24. This would provide significant support to the credibility of our industry’s decarbonization positioning and aspirations.
25. In this area, ICAO is helping States accelerate the adoption of advanced flight management techniques, and we’re mainstreaming collaborative environment concepts and initiatives like machine-readable flight planning.
26. Governments and operators are motivated by the proven cost savings, improved system performance, strengthened safety and resilience, and reduced delays.
27. We are also supporting the international sharing of performance metrics such as flight efficiency and taxi times.
28. This facilitates learning and competition, which also helps to drive continuous improvement.
29. Behind all this, ICAO has one message: work with us to accelerate progress toward net-zero carbon emissions from aviation, inclusively and with a fair playing field for all stakeholders worldwide.
30. On this point, I also want to briefly share that ICAO is strongly encouraging closer cooperation with the European Union and alignment with ICAO.
31. European countries are among the ICAO Member States that supported the unanimous approval of our global strategy towards net-zero.

32. This support for ICAO's work has avoided duplicative measures and ensured Europe's aviation stakeholders compete in a fair international marketplace as we continue to reduce emissions at the global level.
33. Europe must safeguard this progress, unity, and consensus by continuing to ensure that the European Emission Trading System remains fully aligned with the CORSIA framework.
34. This will strengthen ICAO's ability to deliver a global solution to the global climate crisis, for our intrinsically international sector.
35. That is why we call upon every State, every airport, airline, innovator, policymaker, and partner to support and align with the ICAO strategy for climate, and help inform our approach to its implementation.
36. Multilateralism is aviation's only pathway to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and the only way to respond urgently to the climate crisis.
37. Aviation has demonstrated the environmental leadership and innovation that other industries look to for inspiration, and ICAO will support you as you move forward.
38. In closing, I would not want to miss the opportunity to invite all States, industry and aviation stakeholders to our upcoming Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference, which will be hosted at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal from 16 to 20 November 2026. Your participation and contribution at this momentous event will be instrumental to shaping the future of a safe, secure, accessible and sustainable international air transport system.