



**Opening Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the 2nd Dialogue
between the European Union and ICAO
on Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Implementation Support
16 June 2026**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the second Dialogue on Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Implementation Support.
2. I am sincerely grateful to the European Union for its continued partnership with ICAO in this area, and for its broader commitment to strengthening civil aviation worldwide.
3. We are demonstrating how international organizations should work together to save lives, protect the environment, and promote prosperity.
4. At our first dialogue two years ago, we agreed that enhanced coordination would ensure that capacity development and implementation support activities effectively respond to the specific needs of States, maximizing our impact.
5. We also recognized that no single organization alone is able to address the world's implementation challenges, especially in today's increasingly complex aviation environment. Success requires partnership, alignment, and a common commitment to ensuring that no country is left behind.
6. I am especially pleased to highlight the successful implementation of all the decisions we took at our first Dialogue.
7. Our new working arrangements are strengthening cooperation, facilitating the exchange of expertise, promoting the development of joint initiatives and products, and avoiding the duplication of efforts.

8. In addition, our regular technical and regional coordination exchanges have enhanced our mutual understanding of our respective implementation support processes. They have also enabled us to identify new opportunities for collaboration and improve the overall effectiveness of our activities.
9. We have developed new joint products and we have upcoming events, including the EASA-ICAO global symposium for regional safety oversight organizations and regional accident investigation organizations.
10. We must continue to build on our progress. We must sustain and enhance our support to strengthen oversight capabilities, develop human resources, modernize systems, and implement ICAO standards effectively.
11. In this way, States can overcome the significant challenges they face as we progress towards our vision for 2050: air transport for all, with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.
12. I wish to recommend that this Dialogue also serve as a platform to facilitate the regular exchange of intelligence, technical insights and best practices among participating organizations, with a view to strengthening the effectiveness, coordination and impact of implementation support activities worldwide.
13. Such an exchange could prove particularly valuable in enabling the early identification of emerging aviation safety and oversight challenges, allowing organizations to provide timely and targeted support to States before deficiencies escalate into significant concerns. In this regard, enhanced intelligence-sharing could help States strengthen their safety oversight systems, prevent the issuance of Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), avoid inclusion on safety watchlists, and support sustained compliance with international standards.
14. The European Union is a world-leading provider of assistance and expertise for the development of air transport. By uniting the EU's resources with ICAO's global reach and experience, we are in a unique position to provide all States with coordinated, efficient, and effective support.
15. All of this points to the importance of today's discussions. We have a very valuable opportunity to strengthen our partnership before us. Let's make the most of it.