



Recorded Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the Global Sustainable Transport Forum
Beijing
23 September 2026

1. It is my honour to address you as global sustainable transport leaders.
2. With ICAO, you will be achieving the international community's vision for flight.
3. We aim to deliver air transport for all by 2050, with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions from international aviation.
4. This vision was unanimously supported by a record 192 ICAO Member States at our Assembly last October.
5. This means we have an unprecedented mandate and opportunity to lead on sustainability and innovation for generations to come.
6. A sustainable aviation system also requires safety and security measures that are effective and efficient over the long term. ICAO's Strategic Plan provides an integrated path forward.
7. We are harnessing innovation from digitalization and new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence.
8. We are fostering seamless air connectivity and resilient supply chains.

9. And we are leading the aviation sector's green transition through ambitious climate targets and scale-up deployment of sustainable fuels and cleaner energies in all regions.
10. I am encouraged to see that China and other Asia Pacific States are strongly committed to aviation decarbonization, with many initiatives already underway in the region.
11. The ICAO Assembly has encouraged robust implementation of CORSIA, the only global market-based measure for addressing carbon emissions from international aviation.
12. ICAO encourages all Member States to continue their strong support for CORSIA to advance environmental protection in a harmonized manner.
13. In parallel, ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" Strategic Goal ensures every nation has the opportunity to pursue sustainable prosperity through safe, reliable, inclusive, and green air connectivity.
14. This vision resonates with China's commitment to advancing global development and strengthening solidarity among nations. It reflects a shared belief that lasting progress is achieved through partnership and cooperation.
15. ICAO is uniting the world's leading experts to ensure global aviation planning and standards keep pace with innovation.
16. 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.
17. Our ability to bring the entire world's regulatory agencies and industry together is one of our key strengths.
18. When new aircraft technology emerges, ICAO coordinates frameworks and harmonizes standards, working to enable all States and stakeholders to move forward together.

19. Electric or hybrid propulsion, including eVTOLs, are among the spectacular technologies we are helping manufacturers to export and operators to implement.
20. ICAO also strongly promotes and supports the scaling-up of sustainable aviation fuels and facilitates partnerships for financing decarbonization projects through our ICAO FINVEST hub.
21. This is how we are enabling the adoption of cleaner and quieter technologies globally.
22. I also want to highlight that we are supporting innovation at the operational level.
23. Our studies show that operational improvements deliver substantial reductions in aviation emissions. These are innovations that we could implement today to show real and urgent progress on sustainability, while actually reducing costs.
24. Behind all this, ICAO has one message: work with us to accelerate progress, inclusively and with a fair playing field for all stakeholders worldwide, through the globally-harmonized approach and solutions.
25. Multilateralism is aviation's only pathway, and the only way to respond urgently to the world's needs for sustainable development and climate action.
26. Aviation has demonstrated the leadership and innovation that other industries look to for inspiration.
27. Now, your participation and contribution at this momentous event will bring us closer to our vision for a safe, secure, accessible and sustainable international air transport system.
28. Thank you.