**Opening Remarks by the**
**Secretary General of the**
**International Civil Aviation Organization**
**Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar**
**to the**
**Air Navigation World - Air Traffic Flow Management Flow Event**

*5 October 2026 @ ICAO HQ*

1. I am honoured to welcome you to ICAO Headquarters in Montréal for these talks on air traffic flow management. ATFM is essential to global aviation systems and these talks come at a crucial time.

2. Subject to ICAO Council approval, ATFM will be a core requirement for all States, providers, and airspace users, in November 2030.

3. In this regard, I am encouraged to see so many representatives of regulators, air navigation service providers, airspace users, international groups, and industry partners from across the globe. This comprehensive representation of all stakeholders is key to our success.

4. Together, we will deliver a truly connected network for air traffic flow management, enabling every flight to operate in a predictable and efficient manner while enhancing safety and sustainability.

5. Airspace closures and severe weather are among the recent disruptions that point to the need for ATFM as a solution for steady and resilient operations.

6. But collaborative ATFM should not be seen as a reactive tool. It is a tool that provides the framework for working across borders to proactively build the foundations of safer, more orderly, more efficient, and greener air traffic.

7. ATFM will only deliver its full value once it is applied as a single global system, not as a patchwork of disconnected solutions.

8. Given the dramatic growth and transformation of air traffic, unlocking this full value is critical, and urgent.

9. We are integrating more sophisticated information systems while welcoming new types of flights. These include unmanned aircraft, advanced air mobility, higher-altitude operations, and commercial space transport.

10. ATFM will enable us to accommodate this growth and diversification in a way that attains our safety, efficiency, economic, and environmental objectives.

11. ATFM directly supports ICAO's strategic vision of air transport for all by 2050, with zero fatalities from accidents or unlawful interference, and net-zero carbon emissions.

12. When air traffic flows are managed together, every flight becomes safer and more secure.

13. When aircraft follow optimized routes with fewer delays, aviation becomes more sustainable.

14. And when the global network is able to respond to disruption and keep traffic moving, we will deliver reliable air mobility for all.

15. In short, air traffic flow management will soon be essential everywhere, and preparations must start now.

16. This week's event will allow us to focus on the actionable steps for implementation.

17. You will receive practical advice and explore what drives a modern, performance-based ATM system.

18. The exhibition and SkyTalks also provide key opportunities to exchange ideas, discuss practical solutions, and strengthen collaborations.

19. By the end of this week, we should ensure we have coherent and practical plans, working side by side in coordination with our neighbours and partners.

20. Every State must support ATFM as a global effort.

21. ICAO in turn will remain fully committed to providing the tools you need to strengthen your ATFM capabilities.

22. Four years is a short time for such a fundamental change.

23. That is why we must accelerate the pace today.

24. With that, I wish you inspiring and constructive discussions.