Pre-Recorded Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the FIATA World Congress
6 October

1. I would like to congratulate FIATA on your 100th anniversary milestone.

2. As we embark on the first year of the ICAO Strategic Plan to deliver air transport to all by 2050, with zero fatalities and net zero carbon emissions, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to highlight the significance of ICAO's long-standing collaboration of the global freight forwarding community, and to share some insights into the way forward.

3. The current context is challenging, with trade links having been disrupted by new conflict zones in recent years.

4. While the market for standard "All Risks" cargo coverage remains robust, the market for cargo war risk has become volatile.

5. Insurers are closely monitoring ongoing conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, which has resulted in new insurance assessments, increased costs, and operational delays due to airspace closures and re-routing.

6. In response, the insurance industry is developing new solutions, such as parametric delay insurance and supply chain policies.

7. The insurance industry is also incorporating data analytics and AI to more accurately price and manage risk exposure.

8. This reveals the adaptability of the sector while underscoring the importance of a clear and predictable legal framework.

9. The Montreal Convention of 1999 addresses this need by offering harmonized global carrier liability.

10. This framework excludes liability for acts of war or armed conflict, and does not require compensation for delays if the carrier takes all reasonable measures.

11. It balances the needs of carriers, shippers, and insurers.

12. With 144 out of 193 ICAO Member States having ratified the convention as of 2026, the recent ICAO Assembly called on all States to ratify the convention, confirming its status as the international standard and foundation for a reliable climate for business.

13. ICAO is actively advocating for these ratifications, and welcomes the support of industry for this advocacy.

14. Meanwhile, digitization is enhancing the entire supply chain.

15. The Montreal Convention has further encouraged the adoption of electronic air waybills and digital regulatory documents.

16. Reliable digital cargo information, including the transition to paperless trade, directly benefits operational risk management.

17. This progress is quantifiable.

18. According to the UN Global Survey, average cross-border paperless trade rose from 45 percent in 2021 to 55 percent in 2025.

19. Widespread adoption of digital processes enables better risk forecasting, compliance, and efficiency throughout the multimodal logistics sector.

20. We must accelerate this trend.

21. We must also continue to build the resilience of supply chains in the face of climate change and its impacts. Continued commitment to ICAO climate adaptation and mitigation measures will be essential.

22. Building on a century of FIATA's leadership and the close collaboration between our organizations, we are well-positioned to deliver progress on these three priorities, enhancing the resilience of global trade and safeguarding the strong growth in air cargo we forecast.

23. In this way, we can ensure that freight forwarding continues to thrive and that the benefits of connectivity to the global freight network reach every community.

24. I wish you an engaging and productive meeting ahead.