



**Opening address by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma,
to the ICAO Aviation Climate Week 2026**

(Montréal, Canada, 2 June 2026)

Excellencies, distinguished participants, colleagues,

It is my honour to welcome you to Aviation Climate Week 2026.

Here, we will see how bold decisions and shared commitment are creating the momentum to combat the climate crisis.

Our objectives here in Montréal are clear.

We must demonstrate to the world that we are accelerating the progress towards the ICAO climate goals, and that net-zero carbon emissions from international civil aviation will be achieved by 2050.

This will require deepening global commitment to drive advances in technology and policy.

We must also ensure proper implementation and financial support where needed.

Increased investment and stronger implementation by all States will determine our progress.

Mobilizing financing and strengthening partnerships are critical.

We must identify the gaps in existing carbon reduction measures and strengthen understanding among all stakeholders.

We need immediate, harmonized, and inclusive action.

Colleagues,

Aviation has proven that international cooperation solves complex challenges.

We will now showcase that very cooperation to the world.

ICAO's leadership stands on a foundation built by years of commitment and collaboration.

And because we have learned from our experience, we are able to move forward with confidence.

We know that capacity-building must remain a priority.

Education and knowledge-sharing must extend especially to developing regions.

Through the ICAO State Action Plans, we can ensure all States contribute to, and benefit from, the achievement of ICAO's global emissions reduction goals.

We will lead progress on cleaner energies, innovation, technology, operational improvement, and ensure the highest level of integrity in offsetting, where required.

This Climate Week will build on the unprecedented mandate resulting from the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly.

The Assembly supported the ICAO commitments to carbon neutral growth from 2020, a five percent emissions reduction using aviation cleaner energies by 2030, and of course the net zero by 2050 imperative, in support of the Paris Agreement temperature goals.

Global cooperation and harmonized action are essential to meeting these goals, with ICAO providing clear direction and certainty for all stakeholders.

SAF and cleaner energy sources are already playing a central role.

These are expected to supply more than half of the reductions required to reach net-zero by 2050.

That is why ICAO has launched global and regional initiatives to support these ambitions.

The ACT-SAF programme already includes more than 280 partners worldwide. It has delivered over 30 feasibility and business implementation studies for sustainable aviation fuel projects.

In parallel, the ICAO ACT-LTAG programme provides direct, tailored support for State Action Plans. It promotes regional collaboration and drives progress toward our long-term targets.

And the ICAO Finvest Hub will connect aviation decarbonization projects with investment partners and funding.

All of these efforts are building the momentum towards ICAO's Fourth Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels, which we are planning for 2028. That meeting will review progress toward the 2030 vision, and help us set new targets for the years ahead.

Colleagues,

As we advance towards our net-zero carbon emissions objective, we must ensure progress along all the pathways to decarbonization.

Innovation and technology are crucially important. Equally important are the globally harmonized standards that encourage and steer their development.

Recent adoption of new ICAO environmental standards for subsonic and supersonic aircraft underscore our commitment to this pathway for decarbonization.

Our guidance to Member States is also delivering clear progress on operational improvements. Streamlining air traffic management and ground operations has already resulted in both economic gains and reduced emissions, but much more can and must be done.

The critical role of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, CORSIA, has also been reaffirmed by the ICAO Assembly.

Participation has grown from 88 States in 2021 to 130 States today, with reporting covering 99% of international aviation emissions. With CORSIA's second phase fast approaching, we must now review lessons learned so far and identify how we can further strengthen both the Scheme and the international cooperation it requires.

Indeed, broadening State participation and deepening the implementation of all ICAO mechanisms remain priorities.

Our collective success depends on both.

That is why I want to thank you all for your commitment, and your expertise.

Air transport is setting an example for other industries to follow. Through decisive leadership and a shared commitment to climate action, we will ensure a vibrant future for flight.

Thank you.