



**Opening Remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma,
to the Model ICAO 2026 – Opening Luncheon**

(Montréal, Canada, 9 June 2026)

*Distinguished Council Representatives,
Delegates in training,
ICAO colleagues,*

Good afternoon,

It is a pleasure to join you for the opening of the 2026 Model ICAO Simulation at ICAO HQ.

Today, you are not simply stepping into an academic exercise.

You are stepping into a forum that reflects the very principles on which diplomacy is built: dialogue, cooperation, and the pursuit of common solutions to shared challenges.

The world you are preparing to lead is changing rapidly.

Climate change, technological developments, geopolitical uncertainty, and growing demands for global connectivity are reshaping our societies and the way we work together.

Navigating these challenges will require thoughtful leadership and innovative thinking.

Addressing such challenges will also require collaboration across borders, sectors, and generations.

That is why initiatives like this Model ICAO simulation are so important.

I encourage you to take full advantage of this unique simulation. Participate actively in the discussions, ask questions, challenge assumptions, and learn from one another.

I also invite you to take advantage of the presence of the Council Representatives joining us this afternoon. Speak with them, learn about their countries, and gain a better understanding of the role they play in advancing international civil aviation through ICAO.

Few opportunities offer such direct access to practitioners of global diplomacy.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to SQDI and organizers whose dedication and hard work makes this event possible year after year.

I wish you all the best.

Thank you.