



**Draft Opening remarks by the
President of the Council of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the First Meeting (virtual) of the 215th Session
of the Air Navigation Commission**

(Montréal, 15 September 2020)

Thank you Mr. President and welcome, once again, to a virtual ANC meeting. I would also like to acknowledge the two new members of your team Mr. Mauro Carrinho de Moura, nominated by Brazil and Mr. Ibrahim Al Jabri, nominated by Saudi Arabia. (Alt Denmark Mr. Bernt Tore Larsen) Welcome to you both. I know you will enjoy the technical discussions that occur in this chamber.

For the rest of the ANC, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Council, for your flexibility in the conduct of your meetings during the previous session. Although the session was faced with many unprecedented challenges, you were able to provide the Council with valuable technical advice which has allowed us to continue with our technical work.

This session may be equally disrupted in many ways and I will come back to you, through your President, for input on requests from the Council related to some modifications to our current plan.

I note that the Council's work programme for this session will be busy with a number of important reports from the ANC. I also note that the Commission will be equally busy conducting a number of preliminary and final reviews on amendments to Standards and Recommended Practices. The Commission's primary role as technical advisers to the Council is important and I wish you constructive deliberations on those proposals.

I also wish to note that you have a number of working papers related to the High-level Safety Conference. This is also an important element of your deliberations during this session. I am aware that the Council has yet to make a decision on the timing as well as the conduct of the Conference, whether it should be a virtual or an in-house meeting. Although this decision will only be made in November, I would like to thank you, in the meantime, for all your efforts in preparing for the Conference and ensuring that it will be a success.

The prospect of a virtual Conference also leads me to comment on the accessibility of panel members to the work of the ANC. To allow for an equitable access to deliberations, I urge you to diligently consider the time zone where your experts are located as this would ensure that they are able to provide you with the best possible advice.

There are many other routine items on your agenda and I am glad that you are conducting 'business as usual' in many respects. This is a good sign for ICAO but we know that our industry will likely emerge from this pandemic and its collateral economic downturn quite differently from what it was before. We must be ready to adapt our ways with current changes in our industry to effectively serve States during these difficult times and to emerge as a stronger and healthier aviation sector with a clear mandate from our Member States. The Council will also be focussing on these things in both the Committee Phase and the Council Phase of this session.

Again, welcome to this session and I wish you all well in your deliberations.