



**Remarks by the
Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the 2020 CANSO AGM**

(Virtual Meeting, 15 Oct 2020)

Dear participants in the 2020 CANSO AGM, Dear CANSO Director General, Simon Hocqard, good morning from Montreal!

At the beginning of these brief remarks I have to recall where international air transport now stands due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From January to August 2020 approximately 60% or 1.8 billion fewer passengers have flown than the same period of last year worldwide due to the global pandemic that is COVID-19.

The ICAO economic impact analysis indicates that gross passenger operating revenues of airlines plummeted by approximately 241 billion USD from January to August 2020 compared to the 2019 level. Similarly, ICAO estimates that airports have lost 70 billion USD up to August. Air Navigation Service Providers have lost 8 billion USD in the same period.

Given the importance of air travel to our society, aviation leaders have a great responsibility confronting this pandemic.

ICAO acted very quickly establishing the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force, with the subsequent adoption of the CART Report and the 'Take-off' guidelines.

This is a Council Task Force with the fundamental participation of the Aviation Industry. Air Navigation Service Providers are represented, of course, by CANSO.

I wish to underline that this close cooperation between Council members and Industry representatives has been extremely productive and outlines an enhancement of our relationship in the future in the interest of the overall aviation community.

The CART measures are now being employed all over the world, and the Task Force is presently reviewing a number of Take-off Guidelines amendments as part of its upcoming CART Phase II deliverables.

I attribute great importance to this new exercise. In fact, international air transport recovery is too slow. This is due, surely, to the persistence of the pandemic. However, health measures adopted by States with regard to international travel are not harmonized. For example, quarantine measures are adopted by States in different modalities. At the same time, we have seen over the last few months the development of medical tests that have yielded faster results, and are more reliable. I hope that ICAO, with the cooperation of WHO, would be able to elaborate fruitful recommendations in this regard.

I also wish to mention that the Task Force is currently working to integrate CANSO materials into the CART Phase II guidelines.

The overall report of CART phase II will be submitted to the Council by end October for adoption and I hope that it will contribute effectively to international air transport recovery.

With regard to the enhancement of the relationship between ICAO and the Aviation Industry, which I mention has been very successful within the CART, the Council of ICAO is considering the establishment of a High Level Body with the Industry that would provide strategic advice on innovation. I hope that a decision will be taken during the current Council Session in October-November.

The pandemic has also temporarily relieved the pressing capacity issues we were facing at some of the world's busiest airports and airspace sectors.

This has given us some breathing space but we must prevent a relaxation of our efforts in order to address the capacity crunch that will be faced in the years to come.

Looking beyond COVID-19, for traditional industry growth to resume effectively, air navigation capacity and efficiency improvements will need careful near-term attention.

This is relevant in terms of government financial planning and investment, and it's especially relevant while operators are unable to make those investments themselves.

In closing now, let me please appreciate here the valuable contributions of CANSO to ICAO is work.

Our continued solidarity, and historic capability to work as one global aviation community, will be significantly depended upon in the months and years ahead, and ICAO is grateful to count on CANSO and its members for their vision and expertise.

I wish to thank you very much for your attention and I wish you fruitful discussions and decisions during this 2020 CANSO AGM.