



**Introductory remarks by the Council President
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF)
2020 International Air Safety Summit on**

“Safety Leadership and Global Collaboration During Crisis”

(Recorded presentation for virtual Event, 19 October 2020)

*Mr. Shahidi,
Captain Nolan,
Distinguished guests and colleagues,*

It is my great honour to help introduce this year’s summit, and to appreciate your excellent turn out.

The significant and active participation of both State and industry officials here helps to underscore that safety remains the most important priority and value offering of civil aviation, and especially in times of crisis.

2020 has confronted us with grave threats to the very foundations of global air connectivity and scheduled commercial air services.

These threats have shaken the air industry, and tested its resilience, but we have also adapted quickly and effectively in order to ensure vital operations.

The impacts being seen sector-wide were quickly appreciated by myself and all of my colleagues on the ICAO Council, as countries everywhere began to close their skies, and as the severe economic repercussions of those responses began to be felt by both air operators and society at large.

Our rapid response at the Council level was to establish the Aviation Recovery Task Force, or ‘CART’, and it quickly produced the important ‘Take-off’ response and recovery Guidelines which countries were calling for.

Even as we gather here today, the CART guidelines are continuing to help align national pandemic response and recovery measures globally, and to provide an important basis for the international coordination and cooperation which must be realized.

We must have no illusions, however, that the ultimate alignment these types of guidelines can achieve, destination-to-destination, is still significantly contingent on local public health factors and status.

While these are still proving challenging in many areas of the world, there should be no misconceptions that the ultimate speed and effectiveness of our sector’s recovery will be dependent upon the degree of international coordination we establish.

It will also be dependent on the measures we pursue being:

- compatible with safety and security requirements;
- proportionate to the improvement of public health;
- flexible where possible to allow for a viable economic recovery;
- and safeguarded not to distort markets.

Measures that impose any new costs or burdens on the industry must be very carefully considered, and justified by all related objectives for safety, public health, and the confidence of passengers and crew.

The CART guidelines have all been developed with all of these key sectoral priorities in mind, and at the end of October we are expecting the new Phase II of this guidance to be adopted through Council.

I wish to emphasize that some of its new provisions are being designed to help countries evaluate new testing options, and notably as a means to alleviate the current traveler quarantine requirements which are so significantly impacting passenger enthusiasm and confidence globally.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Council's CART activities and successes have deeply relied on the expertise and support of the ICAO Secretariat, and it's my pleasure now to conclude and pass the floor to Dr. Liu, so that she can update you on some of ICAO's latest achievements and priorities.

Thank you.