



**Closing remarks
by the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the ICAO Global Aviation Security Symposium 2021**

(Virtual event, 10 September 2021)

*Good morning, afternoon and evening,
ladies and gentlemen,*

Before summarizing the conclusions of this important event, I would be remiss not to add a few words on the commemoration of 9/11. As we all know, the 9/11 terrorist attacks had a tremendous impact on the security of our society and dramatically altered the international security landscape. It imposed permanent change to aviation security. In fact, following 9/11, aviation security took an even more prominent role than in the past for aviation and, of course, for ICAO.

In October 2001, approximately one month after the greatest threat ever to civil aviation security, ICAO held its 33rd Assembly and directed the Council to convene, as a matter of priority, an international high-level conference on aviation security with the objective of preventing, combating and eradicating acts of terrorism against civil aviation. Approximately four months later, on 19 and 20 February 2002, an historic High-level Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security held at ICAO headquarters endorsed a global strategy for strengthening aviation security worldwide.

This symposium has allowed us to take stock of the progress made to aviation security thanks to the interesting discussions and diverse perspectives and insights presented here, all in a spirit of solid cooperation which is essential.

Staying committed to the actions and goals of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) will be the best assurance for aligning our efforts towards enhancing the security of international air transport.

This symposium's sessions have addressed key elements pertaining to crisis management, transforming day-to-day industry operations, and the effective implementation of response plans in a context of high expectations, limited resources, and an ever-changing environment.

It's also highlighted that having the right personnel for the right tasks is a key component of effective crisis response, and that the assurance of effective and affordable training solutions to enhance staff competencies must therefore remain a top priority.

Another key takeaway you've established is that technological developments have been and will continue to be transformational to security procedures and outcomes, and that they must be fully considered with respect to potential challenges and unintended consequences.

Your perspectives on these issues, and those which we have appreciated from our expert presenters, have greatly contributed to our understanding and expectations on how to address these critical topics.

In concluding, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of ICAO's role under the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and appreciate the invaluable support of both the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in the implementation of UNSCR 2309 towards countering global aviation terrorism.

These are critical priorities for us today, and ICAO has been encouraged that those involved in addressing them were so well represented here among the experts in attendance.

I also wish to appreciate the new developments, information, and opportunities which were revealed to us over the past three days, and how innovation is and will continue to be so vital to your planning and outcomes.

Finally, I wish to underscore the tremendous collaboration ICAO has received from numerous Member States, international organizations, and industry, on promoting our objectives under the Year of Security Culture campaign.

Let me please express ICAO's heartfelt thanks to the moderators, speakers, and attendees to AVSEC2021, and to the many ICAO staff involved in its preparation.

It is my honour to now officially close these proceedings, and I look forward to the opportunity to seeing you all again.

Thank you.