



ICAO

**Closing remarks
by the President of the Council
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the International Women's Day High-level Panel Discussions**

(Virtual, Montréal, 8 March 2022)

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends, and colleagues,

Allow me to begin by wishing all of you a Happy International Women's Day!

I am very pleased to see such active engagement in today's event which included insightful interventions from highly qualified speakers.

This great participation and enthusiasm is a testimony to the very deep and common commitment to both gender equality and environmental sustainability advancement across the aviation sector.

Over the course of this afternoon's conversation, we acknowledged that we cannot afford to miss out on the fundamental contributions of women to innovate and be champions for change also toward environmental sustainability.

Listening to you all today, we learnt that while environmental changes affect all people around the world, they also come with differing and disproportionate impacts on men and women.

Unfortunately, as also mentioned by the Representative of France, the current events in the world remind us that consequences of war, and there are tens of wars currently in the world, fall in disheartening ways on women. I believe that it is important that on this day, as we honour women, we should also be mindful of the burden born by women in times of crisis.

Looking inward at our own aviation world, I wish to recall that the Council established a group of Council Representatives on Gender Equality in November 2020. This resulted in the adoption last year of a Declaration on Improving Gender Representation in ICAO's Governing and Technical Bodies. This is already bringing some positive effects on how the Council and the Technical Bodies are working. Additionally, I wish to underline that just last week the Council considered the Annual Report on the Gender Equality Programme for 2021. Amongst the several suggestions, the Council envisaged the need to outline specific goals or targets in terms of gender balance.

Finally, it is also my pleasure to inform you that the Council decided to bestow the next Edward Warner Award posthumously to Mrs. Angela Marina Donato for her eminent contribution to the development of international civil aviation throughout her impressive career and in particular for her outstanding contributions to the field of air law. Mrs. Donato was without question a pioneer as a female

demonstrating leadership and commitment within the most important areas of international commercial aviation

In closing, I would like to thank you all for making today's celebration such an engaging and substantive session, and I am sure that everyone has been energized and encouraged by the passion and insight which has informed your discussions.

Thank you.