



**Opening Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the 7th Conference on International Air  
Transport Cooperation 2022**

*(Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5 July 2022)*

*The Honourable Yong-seog KIM, Deputy Minister for Civil Aviation for the Republic of Korea, our host,  
Ministers,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished Asia and Pacific Directors General of Civil Aviation,  
Honoured guests and participants,*

On behalf of the International Civil Aviation Organization, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for the very warm welcome extended to ICAO and its officials, and for the very timely hosting of this Conference on International Air Transport Cooperation.

This seventh edition of Conference, repeatedly hosted by the Republic of Korea on a triennial basis since 2004, comes at a particularly critical conjuncture for the future of the international civil aviation sector and system.

After two years marked by the international public health crisis, and as proof of the demand for air services is evident worldwide, it is encouraging that this seminar is taking place under the theme of “Leap Forward to Better Skies.”

Following the declaration of the public health emergency by the WHO, the international aviation community pulled together to assure the continuation of essential air services, providing transport worldwide for critical personnel and cargo, including the vaccines that have enabled us to be here together today.

The ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce was created, and in close cooperation with the WHO, it developed guidance materials that provided and continue to provide a platform from which governments can align and therefore accelerate the safe recovery of their aviation sectors.

The context has significantly changed since the Taskforce, known as the ICAO CART, initiated its urgent efforts.

As routes and destinations continue to re-open today, and with the summer peak travel season now upon us, the challenges of global recovery are being clearly illustrated as the world’s incredible air travel demand overwhelms industry capacities.

All of these stakeholders are trying their best today to cope with the staffing and infrastructure impediments now being faced, and I wish to underscore here that we need to stand together as the recovery of global connectivity continues to progress.

It is important that we recall in such circumstances that international aviation is a

system, all stakeholders, including governments and international organizations, must cooperate with determination and solidarity, to get the global network running more efficiently again.

Collaboration, and a unified global approach, have always been fundamental to the overall objectives we share to achieve a recovery that is not just accelerated but also sustainable and resilient in the face of future challenges. This points to the key themes we have focused the 41st ICAO Assembly around: namely 'innovation' and 'resilience'.

Cooperation and innovation are also key themes in the programme of this Conference. The discussions that will take place here therefore offer an important opportunity to explore avenues for progress and indeed help shape the future of flying.

For this reason, I wish to express my gratitude once again to the Government of the Republic of Korea for this platform.

Thank you.