



**Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano  
to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting  
on the Strengthening of the ECCAA and the  
Safety and Security Oversight Systems  
of the Eastern Caribbean ICAO Contracting States**

*(Pre-recorded message, 7 December 2022)*

*Distinguished Ministers,  
Permanent Secretaries,  
Directors General,  
Systemic Assistance Programme (SAP) “Champions” stakeholders,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I wish to express our collective thanks and recognition to the Honourable Sir Robin Yearwood, Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Energy of Antigua and Barbuda, for the generous and efficient hosting of this Fifth Ministerial Meeting.

ICAO and its Council are very grateful for your continuous updates and information on the actions and results being accomplished by Eastern Caribbean States to strengthen their Civil Aviation Authority, the ECCAA.

The recent meeting during our 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly, with many of your States’ high level representatives, was a welcomed opportunity for ICAO and a very productive engagement.

I would also like to reiterate how critical the contributions of our NACC Regional Office will continue to be to finding a sustainable solution to this endeavour.

It currently assigns the highest level of priority to the strengthening of the ECCAA, and to the establishment of robust safety and security oversight systems for Eastern Caribbean States.

An excellent recent example of our Mexico City Office’s assistance has been the Systemic Assistance Programme (SAP), as informed by the NACC Regional Director Dr. Melvin Cintron.

This year in particular, the SAP deployed several technical assistance missions, covering the full scope of ICAO’s Safety and Security oversight programmes.

It also facilitated and provided training to technical personnel, maintained close relationships that enabled and promoted helpful solutions, and enhanced ECCAA in fulfilling its mandates as a multi-State CAA.

Some validations of this progress are upcoming, and I would greatly encourage your related support for your CAAs to ensure that the resources and the appropriate approvals concerning legislation, documentation, and other critical State-based actions, are able to be conducted in a timely manner.

Honourable Ministers, I cannot stress enough how important your ministerial leadership are to advancing and ensuring a continued focus for the benefit and success of not only the ECCAA, but also each of your States whether individually or collectively.

As part of those efforts, I would recall that ECCAA Ministers attending the previous and 4th iteration of this Ministerial Meeting committed to its Declaration of Intent as a mechanism for meaningful commitments and progress.

These commitments include establishing the arrangements for cooperation in the promotion and development of an effective and sustainable safety and security oversight system, to move forward in amending the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) primary aviation legislation, and to finalize the establishment of an appropriately funded and empowered multi-State civil aviation authority.

The ECCAA, as the multi-State civil aviation authority, was expected to move forward in drafting the missing harmonized regulations and operational procedures, toward the eventual introduction and/or adoption of specific operating regulations covering all 19 Annexes to the Chicago Convention.

As such, this 5th Ministerial Meeting is particularly important to review the status of the aforementioned agreements, as well as any challenges being encountered, since those combined inputs will allow ICAO to formulate the next steps and enhance the Mexico City Office's assistance mechanisms.

Allow me again to urge the ECCAA and the ECCAA's member States to continue working with ICAO to the benefit of your regional air transport objectives and your States' societies' overall economic and sustainable well-being.

ICAO will continue to assure that it will keep its regional support in this area responsive and effective, and that the realization of an effective safety and security oversight solution for your States will continue to be of the highest regional priority for us.

I wish you all very successful deliberations on your very productive and engaging programme, and I also want to wish everyone a very happy International Civil Aviation Day, which we celebrate today, 7 December.

The 2022 International Civil Aviation Day maintains its focus on the Council's current long-term theme of 'Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development', and ICAO encourages all States and stakeholders to embrace innovation as a key enabler of this sector's sustainable future.

Thank you for your attention.

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