



**Opening remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the 2023 ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium**

(Pre-recorded message; Seoul, Republic of Korea, 30 May 2023)

*Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished participants to the 2023 ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium,*

I regret that existing commitments have prevented me from joining you in Seoul today, but trust that you're in very capable hands with Secretary General Salazar, with his team and with the several Council Representatives.

With the COVID-19 pandemic now further behind us, it is encouraging to note that air transport is recovering quite well and will reach, globally, 2019 levels by the end of the year.

As we have emphasized time and time again, air transport post recovery will have to “build back better.” It will have to be more resilient in the face of potential crises, it will have to be strongly engaged in the fight against climate change, and, it must continue to develop so that no country is left behind.

ICAO is fully committed in this regard.

COVID-19 lessons are well learned and ICAO is working with WHO and other partners on crisis management. In fact, the 41st ICAO Assembly held last October directed ICAO to strengthen its crisis management capacity, including by establishing a crisis response framework and mechanism based on experienced gained during the COVID-19 crisis (A41-12).

On the fight against climate change, you are well aware of the decision taken at the Assembly on the Long-Term Aspirational Goal on CO₂ emissions. ICAO is working tirelessly on its implementation. At the 3rd Conference on Aviation Alternative Fuels that will be held in Dubai from 21 to 24 November, and where I hope to meet all of you in person, I am sure that Member States will reach an important agreement on scaling up production and use of Sustainable Aviation and Low Carbon Fuels paving the way for air transport decarbonization by 2050.

Perhaps less evident but surely not less important are the new policies adopted by the ICAO Council to support Member States in implementing Standards, Recommended Practices and ICAO guidance materials.

While ICAO provides the collaborative platform and technical support for this multilateral progress, none of what we achieve would be possible without the expertise, commitment, and support of Member States.

Implementation support is, where you will focus your attention this week, and in the months and years to come.

As a standards-setting body, ICAO's global influence is measured by how widely and effectively its standards are addressed and implemented by national regulators.

Very clearly, a technically sound standard that cannot be meaningfully implemented by a significant percentage of States presents significant challenges to a harmonized and interoperable air transportation system, but also an opportunity.

This is where ICAO's implementation support capabilities and solutions demonstrate their true value to the world.

The implementation support and resource mobilization work we undertake not only benefits our most resource-challenged States, but also their regional and global partners.

Throughout your proceedings this week, you will hear many common themes regarding standards-setting, and on the need to better integrate our implementation support work into every stage of a new or amended standard's development.

Achieving this will increase our agility and allow us to be much more responsive in integrating new entrants and the cutting edge innovations now arising in so many air transport domains, whether to reduce emissions, protect against cyber threats, or enable the incredible new range of air services and capabilities which currently-emerging aircraft and operations can deliver to civil societies.

It is my sincere hope that this Symposium, will allow us, with one voice, to express the political will and the technical engagement needed to underpin and progress our work.

In the meantime, you have my full assurance that the ICAO Council stands ready to support States in implementing SARPs through focussed deliberations and decisions.

On behalf of the Council, thank you for your participation and commitment to ICAO's ongoing implementation support efforts. I wish you all a very productive Symposium.