



**Speaking notes by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano  
to the COCESNA Boards of Directors Session**

*(Belize, 12 October 2023)*

ICAO's recognition of the effective regional collaboration of the Central American States, working as a block for the development of aviation and air transport in the Central American area through the umbrella group, COCESNA, highlighting their political commitment on compliance with safety and security oversight, to work with ICAO and their RSOO, Central American Agency for Aviation Safety (ACSA). COCESNA is a good example of the regional integration approach agreed by the Central American Presidents under the Central American System for Integration (SICA, for its initials in Spanish).

Thank the continuous involvement and participation of Central American States and COCESNA in the regional aviation implementation events and working groups, leading the work at the regional groups in matters such as SAR, airspace management, AIG, Communications, and State Safety Programmes and compliance with AVSEC SARPs. The recent MoU signature on the regional Flight Procedures Programme (FPP) is a clear example of this approach.

The approach on extending the harmonization of aviation regulations among the Central American States and the support of the COCESNA/ACSA is well noted, where ICAO will continue facilitating the necessary actions for this achievement, considering the overall benefits of common inspections, industry and State approval facilitation, and other operational efficiencies.

The collaborative work of COCESNA in ATM matters (through its ANSP, ACNA) has facilitated the Central American area to expedite agreements and enhancement of operational improvements in air navigation, strengthen their air navigation infrastructure, and promote activities in environmental protection deployment and joint work with other international organizations such as EASA and Systemic Assistance Programme "Champion States" such as United States.

The training needs and provisions are also an area that Central American States through COCESNA have been actively working in order to enhance them, and ICAO is fully engaged to continuing the support to develop sub-regional training capacity for all Central American States, with the NAM/ CAR Civil Aviation Training Centres Working Group (NAM/CAR CATG) and regional collaboration on training.

Through the "Instituto Centroamericano de Capacitación Aeronáutica", COCESNA has developed and delivered ICAO-competency based training packages for the benefit of COCESNA Member States, under the umbrella of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme.

The existence of several ICAO Aviation Projects in Central America is a good indicator of the growth of aviation in the area, where airport enhancements, expansion of services and infrastructure, and other studies are elements needed for the deployment of the aviation master plans for Central America.

ICAO welcomes the initiatives of Central American States and COCESNA to extend their lessons learned and good practices to the Caribbean States and their RSOO, CASSOS, supported by SICA and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Additionally, COCESNA has undertaken several key technical cooperation projects, which fall under the purview of the newly rebranded Capacity Development and Implementation Bureau, formerly known as the Technical Cooperation Bureau.

Regional collaboration and Active State participation in cooperation matters, as currently happens in this sub-region, are seen by ICAO as a solution for the continuous, sustainable, progressive and orderly development of aviation/air transport in the States and the region.