



**Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF)  
on the theme of  
“Enhancing both physical connectivities of Infrastructure and soft connectivity of technologies,  
standards, rules, and operation for win-win development” and “Promoting infrastructure  
connectivity among Belt and Road cooperation partner countries for an open global economy”**

*(Beijing, China, 18 October 2023)*

*Your Excellencies Ministers and Heads of International Organizations,  
Distinguished participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation,*

As the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, it is my honour to address you today.

ICAO is the United Nations’ specialized agency for civil aviation, and a primary objective and element of our work is promoting cooperation between nations towards better connecting the world by air transport.

The themes of today’s discussion are therefore tightly linked with our work.

Aviation safety, security, sustainability, and efficiency always has and always will depend on strong cooperation between States.

The future of air connectivity and the sustainable development benefits that it brings will therefore depend on continued strengthening of this cooperation.

This fact is recognized in the preamble to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in 1944, that mandates and informs ICAO’s work. It highlights the essential and unique role of aviation in bringing the peoples of the world together.

The aviation system, with its global connections is only as safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sustainable as its weakest point.

And so it is in the interest of all that we encourage as much cooperation as possible, laying the foundation for the mutual respect and understanding that enables a more

seamless international civil aviation network, within which risks are optimally and jointly managed.

The Belt and Road is a prime example of this.

I would also like to underscore that air transport plays an essential role in complementing and completing land transport by “belt and road”, particularly as intermodality becomes increasingly vital in today and tomorrow’s trade and global economy.

It is often said “Build one kilometre of road, and you can travel one kilometre. Build one kilometre of runway, and you can travel almost anywhere.”

As we work to extend global connectivity to under-served communities, countries, and regions, this means that air transport infrastructure can provide a technological and financial leap ahead.

Moreover, if done correctly – and let me highlight that ICAO is ready to assist in this regard, that runway is a gateway to less carbon in the transport sector.

In this regard, I wish to recall the ICAO Assembly Resolution, adopted last year, establishing the Global Aspirational Goal to reduce to zero by 2050 carbon emissions by international aviation. Main contributor to this objective will be the gradual uptake of Sustainable Aviation Fuels. ICAO is working with its Member States to promote investments worldwide in order to make sustainable aviation fuels accessible and affordable.

Connectivity will be characterized in the near future also by extensive introduction of technological innovation as for example, advanced air mobility or paperless passenger experience.

This also means that we need to invest in making sure that aviation regulators are ready for the future and the revolutionary technology and operations on the horizon.

To that end, I highly encourage you to consider these aspects and heighten your cooperation with ICAO, whether it be in standards development or in capacity development and implementation, to help ensure that regulators, specifically in developing aviation markets, make use of the most advanced technologies and procedures.

Thank you.

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