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**Opening keynote by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the XXV Ordinary Assembly  
of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission**

*(Pre-recorded message, 8 April 2024, Santiago, Chile)*

*Your Excellences,  
Council Representatives,  
Directors General of Civil Aviation,  
Distinguished guests,*

As the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address this 25th Ordinary Assembly of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission.

I regret that I am not able to join you personally in Santiago. Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and recognition for the remarkable achievements of the Latin American Region over the past year.

I am referring to your collaborative efforts and strategic discussions at Caribbean and South American DGAC meetings, which have led to strong commitments by Civil Aviation Authorities, Industry Associations, and partners present. This in turn reflects the strength of your collective vision.

Innovation, environmental sustainability, and the good governance of civil aviation authorities are among the pillars of this vision. This is thanks to your excellent understanding of aviation's strategic needs.

The presence of influential leaders in the ICAO Council from Latin America also underscores the region's strong voice in shaping the future of international aviation.

This region represents 6% of Global Traffic and more than 16% of the territory of global airspace services for air navigation.

Moreover, Latin America boasts one of the leaders in aircraft manufacturing, possesses substantial energy reserves, and has a rich historical connection between the southern and northern hemispheres.

This unique geographical position presents both challenges and opportunities, particularly as the center of gravity of aviation gradually shifts east and south. For a region characterized by north-south bound traffic and separated by vast oceans, aviation stands as a key enabler for connectivity.

I would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the region's dedication to ICAO's goals towards decarbonization, safety, and the facilitation of international air transport (FAL) through the ICAO TRIP Strategy.

This too resonates with the region's strategic vision.

In terms of decarbonization, a massive leap forward has been achieved at the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) in November last year in Dubai, with the adoption of a Global Framework for SAF and LCAF and cleaner energies development and deployment. In particular, I wish to recall the global target to achieve of 5% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by 2030.

Now, we must deliver.

I wish to ensure you all that ICAO is committed to supporting the implementation of the Global Framework, forging ahead through partnerships while ensuring that No Country is Left Behind. ICAO's engagement at the highest levels with investors and fuel producers will continue.

The Finvest Hub initiative, which was so well received during CAAF/3 in Dubai will be an important project establishing a platform to facilitate investment partnerships particularly in the interest of countries and regions that do not have SAF production.

Additionally, I am happy to share that 150 States and organizations are now part of ICAO's Assistance, Capacity Building, and Training programme for SAF, known as ACT-SAF and 23 States are from this region alone.

ACT-SAF provides training, feasibility studies, support for SAF certification and policy development, and implementation of specific SAF projects for States. I am grateful to the partnering States from this region that have contributed resources to ICAO in these efforts, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration with you.

Your dedication to fostering innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness sets a commendable example for the global aviation community. The sustainable development of civil aviation is obviously predicated on continued enhancement to safety, security, and capacity. We need to remain focused and not allow ourselves to become complacent.

At the same time, we must prepare ourselves for the extraordinary potential of remotely piloted aircraft systems and advanced air mobility (AAM).

First implementation initiatives of AAM will begin this year. ICAO is working on the regulatory aspects and I wish to underline that the first ever AAM Symposium is planned in Montréal in September.

As 2024 is also the ICAO Year of Facilitation, we are particularly active in encouraging the advancement of initiatives in this field this year. By leveraging the ICAO Digital Travel Credential, the interoperability of these initiatives with other entities can be eased and we look forward to working with all of you to make such globally interoperable seamless travel a reality.

This year ICAO celebrates its 80th anniversary. This celebration offers the opportunity to further reflect on how ICAO can continue to modernize itself. The recently concluded ICAO 2024 Innovation Fair from 12 to 14 March in Montreal under the theme Digital Skies: the Future is Now, saw the entire aviation and innovation community, including students and start-ups, reflect on the potential of

digitalization in enhancing process efficiencies and in delivering on the ICAO Strategic Objectives, and how to enable this. Over the course of three days, senior Representatives of ICAO Member States, leading research entities, the aviation industry and private sector innovators discussed the future of the sector and how we can best work collaboratively to realize it.

And as we look to the future of our sector, it is certainly heartening to see Latin America so strongly displaying the spirit of cooperation that has always enabled the safe, secure, and sustainable development international civil aviation.

Over the past 80 years, safeguarding human lives and well-being has been aviation's top priority. Let us keep this front of mind as we strive to enhance the safety, security, and sustainability of flight, and seek to find ways to raise ambitions.

I look forward to positive and crucially important outcomes of our collective efforts, and to your fruitful discussions at this Assembly that will shape the future of aviation in Latin America and beyond.

With that, I wish you a highly successful and productive 25th Assembly.

Thank you.