



**Opening Remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
on the occasion of the 8th Model ICAO**

(Montréal, 20 May 2025)

*Distinguished delegates,
Esteemed faculty members,
and future aviation professionals,*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you here to the headquarters of ICAO Montréal, the world capital of international civil aviation, for the 8th edition of the Model ICAO conference.

As the home of ICAO, this building is the symbol of the shared commitment of 193 Member States to a safe, secure, and sustainable future for international aviation. This building embodies our collective dedication to multilateral cooperation, essential for achieving these goals.

I would like to start by thanking la Société Québécoise de droit international for its outstanding work organizing this annual event.

Their dedication to youth engagement has created an academic experience that empowers students from diverse backgrounds to explore the complexities of aviation and the opportunities available in our sector today.

This annual event represents a unique opportunity to foster the next generation of aviation professionals, nurturing the creative thinking and expertise they will need to contribute meaningfully to our sector's most pressing challenges.

Aviation is an interconnected ecosystem that benefits economies, cultures, and societies worldwide. It is a field driven by innovation and sustained by a commitment to expanding access to air transport while progressing towards zero aviation fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.

By engaging in this simulation, you are stepping into a dynamic and rapidly evolving sector that is constantly seeking fresh ideas and innovative solutions.

As the next generation of industry professionals, your participation here underscores your interest in understanding aviation and the global context in which it operates.

You will be exposed to some of the opportunities it faces, from ensuring the safety and security of international air transport, championing environmental sustainability, or advancing gender equality and diversity.

We must work collectively to break down barriers and continue to create pathways for all individuals, regardless of gender, to pursue careers across all areas of aviation.

As you deliberate on the timely topics before you, I urge you to think about the future of aviation in a broader context. Our global landscape is being reshaped by accelerating technological innovation, environmental challenges, and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Ask yourselves:

How can aviation adapt to these changes? And what role can your generation play in shaping a more sustainable and resilient aviation industry?

As you begin your committee sessions, remember that your work here transcends academic learning - you are developing skills for real-world impact and contributing to aviation's evolving future.

I encourage you to reflect on the powerful words in the Preamble to the Chicago Convention, which recently reached its 80th anniversary. They remind us that “aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world.”

This founding vision remains as relevant today as it was in 1944. Aviation continues to serve as a bridge—not only between places but also between cultures, perspectives, and peoples.

May this spirit of friendship and understanding inspire your deliberations this week!

Thank you.