



**Keynote Message by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the 2025 Hermes AGM & Leaders Forum "Aviation4All"**

(Montréal, Canada, 20 June 2025 - Recording)

My greetings from ICAO Headquarters in Montréal to the participants of the 2025 Hermes AGM & Leaders Forum “Aviation4All”.

I regret that I could not join you personally to share ICAO perspectives on crucially important priorities for global air transport development.

Our long-term strategic plan for 2026-2050 was approved by the ICAO Council a few months ago . It sets out how we can work together supporting the safe, secure and sustainable development of air transport.

First and foremost, ICAO safety and security standards, planning, and capacity building for States will continue to support progress towards zero fatalities while operations continue to scale up? in diverse markets.

Of course, we must ensure that this growth is environmentally responsible. This is safeguarded by the ICAO long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Crucially important frameworks and initiatives are already being put into place to accelerate progress.

We are ramping up our support for cleaner energies, which hold the promise of the largest reductions in carbon impact.

The ICAO Global Framework for Aviation Cleaner Energies has created an internationally coordinated approach, which is essential for industry-wide transformation and investor confidence.

We are also deploying practical tools, including the ACT-SAF programme and the ICAO Finvest Hub. These translate industry’s sustainability commitments into actionable results, providing a holistic pathway from studies through to financing and deployment.

Of course, ensuring aviation for all also means ensuring that the markets are open.

That is why ICAO is actively encouraging and facilitating the air transport liberalization and international cooperation that unlock new markets for operations. Our Air Services Negotiations Events are also accelerating bilateral agreements — I am sure that many will be excited by the prospects presented by the outcomes of our seventeenth ICAN event, this November in Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic.

Building on initiatives from last year, the 2024 Doha Declaration was a key highlight and outcome of the 2024 ICAO Year of Facilitation.

It directly addresses obstacles passengers face. I am talking about issues like accessibility for persons with disabilities and ensuring a seamless and comfortable travel experience.

The Doha Declaration – like the ICAO long term plan – also addresses ways for facilitation to ensure that air transport has the capacity to serve ever increasing passengers with no compromise on security principles.

Finally, it draws on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to help support the future resilience of the global flight network.

ICAO's strategic planning tools also help optimize business growth. Our big data dashboards and analytics offer strategic intelligence and our Air Connectivity Index and Global Aviation Competitiveness Index help identify growth opportunities. We are also positioning artificial intelligence as a key enabler.

Aviation for all also has a very human dimension.

In that regard, let me highlight that aviation's very significant workforce challenges are supported both by ICAO's data work and by ICAO's Next Generation of Aviation Professionals initiative. This initiative is leading the development of a global aviation education plan.

We are also working actively to erase the aviation gender gap through a similar approach. Ensuring talented and motivated women are able and encouraged to pursue careers in our sector is critical to ensuring positions are filled, from the boardroom to the boarding ramp.

All of this points to how the upcoming 42nd ICAO Assembly in September and its study of the long-term plan offer a crucially important opportunity to align and rally around our shared goals.

For 80 years, the Assembly has proven its importance as air transport's highest platform for cooperation towards growth. And with this strategic plan, this year's session holds the promise of defining the decades to come.

Let us take this moment, the ICAO assembly, and the shared vision before us to deepen our cooperation and strengthen our progress towards this goal.

Thank you.