



**Opening Remarks by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the 60th DGCA Conference of the Asia Pacific Region**

*(Pre-recorded Opening Remarks, Sendai, Japan, 28 July 2025)*

*Directors General of Civil Aviation,  
Distinguished Council Members,  
Dear Representatives and Industry Leaders, colleagues,*

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Japan and the ICAO APAC Regional Office for their excellent work in delivering this 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region. We are grateful for Japan's generosity and hospitality, and I regret that I could not join you in person.

The diversity of the states represented at this meeting points to the richness of expertise that will be shared here.

The Asia-Pacific region includes some of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, serving advanced and emerging economies alike, and some of the world's most challenging geography.

Moreover, APAC States are embracing technological advancement, pioneering connectivity solutions across vast distances, and demonstrating remarkable resilience.

Pooling your expertise enables you to address the challenges you share. It also enables ICAO to inform the international community's response to challenges we see around the world.

This is particularly important as air transport is now facing a new chapter of significant complexity, and opportunity.

The ICAO 2026-2050 Strategic Plan recognizes the forecasted growth in passenger and freight demand across your region, despite the headwinds.

The Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation you adopted in Delhi will guide our navigation through them.

It calls for concerted effort on eliminating fatalities, enhancing efficiency and resilience, and minimizing environmental impacts.

The development of the next generation of aviation professionals through well-funded training and investment in training infrastructure will be central to this effort.

Your Regional Office has been exceptionally engaged in supporting these priorities, and I am encouraged by their innovative programmes following a collaborative approach focused on results. I would like to also acknowledge the highly productive efforts led by the Pacific Island Liaison Officer.

Your continued leadership is required in several critical areas.

Recent tragic events remind us that safety must always remain our first priority.

We must reduce accidents by strengthening both State capabilities and regional collaboration, including through enhanced data sharing. Better meteorological services will also be essential to this effort, providing consistent, harmonized weather hazard information across our diverse region for safer skies.

Secondly, we must commit to navigating the current conflict-related challenges in connectivity between Asia and Europe and the Middle East by innovating, optimizing routes, and enhancing cooperation on issues around this challenge.

On the point of air traffic management, I want to highlight that we should also address capacity challenges through heightened regional harmonization in ATC separation and in Air Traffic Flow Management.

Capacity challenges on the ground too should be solved by greater cooperation, especially on security and facilitation.

Finally, I want to highlight that the unique profile of this region means that it has unique solutions to offer the world as we move forward on decarbonization. States in the Asia-Pacific region are providing crucially important insights into how we should tailor ICAO's global solutions to the specific needs of states here.

ICAO can moreover apply these deeply important lessons in other regions.

Your discussions here will prepare you for the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly, which will take place in Montreal in September and early October.

In particular, we want you to come to Canada with a clear vision on ICAO's new Strategic Plan through to 2050, what it means for you, and how you want to see it implemented.

It aims to structure progress towards zero fatalities, Net-zero carbon emissions and air services that are accessible and affordable for everyone, everywhere. Additionally, with the No Country Left Behind initiative now one of ICAO's Strategic Goals, you can be sure that ICAO is fully committed to supporting the region's aviation development.

This Strategic Plan is more than a list of aspirations. It is a commitment to shaping the future of global aviation. Consequently, the increased tasks requested by Member States to ICAO require a reconsideration of the budget and that I encourage the Directors General to support the Council's proposal.

By working together, ICAO and its Member States will continue to drive progress, ensuring that aviation remains safe, secure, sustainable, and accessible for generations to come.

I encourage you to shape the global conversation by bringing Asia Pacific's solutions to the Assembly.

Thank you.