



**Opening Remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the ICAO Innovation Fair Opening**

(Montréal, Canada, 21 September 2025)

*Ministers,
Excellencies,
distinguished delegates,
colleagues,*

It is my pleasure to open this Innovation Fair.

On behalf of the ICAO Council and the Secretary General, Juan Carlos Salazar, I warmly welcome you to our Headquarters.

We meet as air transport demonstrates strong and sustained growth and transformation. New aircraft designs, sustainable aviation fuels, the integration of advanced air mobility systems, and digital border processes are among the factors reshaping our sector. Unmanned aircraft operations and data-driven systems are redefining connectivity, as are the new partnerships and business models we see shaping the future of air transport across all regions.

This means that airports, airlines, and aircraft are increasing in number and diversity.

It also means that new manufacturers and suppliers are contributing to a dynamic marketplace, and more States are participating as States of Design and Manufacture.

And crucially, it means traffic volumes are rising steadily, while the environmental impact of each flight continues to decrease.

This is delivering better connectivity, including in places where air connectivity was thought impossible, or unfeasible. This includes communities that are extremely difficult to reach by surface transport.

Innovation powers these achievements, providing the foundation for continued progress and sustainable development for future generations.

Innovation in aviation drives economic growth, encourages trade and tourism, and creates highly rewarding jobs worldwide.

And since our last Assembly, innovation has advanced at an unprecedented pace.

ICAO's long term strategic plan for 2050 provides us with a robust framework as we navigate these dynamic changes.

At the heart of this plan is a vision for a future of safe, secure, sustainable, and accessible air transport for everyone, everywhere.

Reaching zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 will require both ambition and action, with innovation as a key enabler. That is why ICAO is fostering a culture of creativity and collaboration.

We are supporting our Member States in the identification, development, and deployment of new solutions through timely policies and standards that are technology agnostic.

Over the coming days, we will draw on your expertise to accelerate the development of global policies and standards for emerging technologies.

We want your perspectives on how to foster environments where innovation flourishes in your region of the world.

And we want insights on how to ensure that innovations are more accessible and actionable for all States, in line with the principle that no country is left behind.

The timing of this Fair, directly before the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly, reflects the essential role innovation plays in all aspects of aviation's evolution.

It reflects the importance we place on ensuring that the benefits of innovation are enjoyed by every State and every community.

Let this Fair be a catalyst for progress.

Let it be your opportunity to help set the stage for the binding work of the Assembly.

Thank you.