



**Opening address by  
the Council President of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
to the ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) 2025 Event**

*(Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 10 November 2025)*

*Su Excelencia, Luis Abinader Corona, Presidente de la República Dominicana;  
David Collado, Ministro del Turismo;  
Honourables Ministros;  
Representantes de los Estados miembros;  
Igor Rodríguez, Director del Instituto Dominicano de Aviación Civil (IDAC);  
Héctor Porcella, Presidente de la Junta de Aviación Civil;  
Distinguidos delegados,  
Todos los representantes de aviación civil dominicana;*

Bienvenidos al Evento de Negociación de Servicios Aéreos de la OACI 2025, ICAN.

En nombre de todos los aquí presentes, deseo expresar nuestro más sincero agradecimiento al presidente Abinader por honrarnos con su presencia.

Y agradecer la generosa hospitalidad brindada por el Gobierno de la República Dominicana para este evento.

Quisiera agradecer especialmente a la Junta de Aviación Civil de la República Dominicana y al Comité Organizador local por su excelente organización de este evento.

*Welcome to the 2025 ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event, ICAN.*

*On behalf of everyone here, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to President Abinader, for honouring us with his presence and recognize the generous hospitality provided by the Government of the Dominican Republic for this event.*

*I would like to especially acknowledge the Junta de Aviación Civil de la República Dominicana and the local Organizing Committee for their excellent organization of this event.*

You have set the stage for a very productive week.

Our collective work here will strengthen global air transport which is a key enabler of the socio-economic development of our world.

We meet at a decisive moment for global aviation.

Just last month, the 192 Member States attending ICAO's 42nd Assembly gave the organization a unanimous and unprecedented mandate.

Through 32 Resolutions, the Assembly has supported ICAO's vision for 2050 of air transport for everyone, everywhere, with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions.

This vision guides all of ICAO's work both at Headquarters and across the globe.

At the Assembly, States adopted a new policy framework for air transport.

This framework will help open markets, clarify ownership issues, promote fair taxation, and also strengthen aviation data, analytics, and the economics of infrastructure.

This new framework provides our Member States with a solid foundation to accelerate progress.

And this event provides us with a crucial opportunity to move forward with it.

Our vision at ICAO is simple and shared by the global aviation community.

Air transport should create prosperity and well-being for all, now and for future generations.

Balanced liberalization, fair competition, modern airports, and strong consumer rights support this vision.

ICAO is enabling States to realize this vision by supporting the development of transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking air transport economic frameworks.

These efforts reflect the core principles of the ICAN initiative:

- facilitating cooperation,
- promoting regulatory clarity,
- enhancing connectivity,
- and enabling the sustainable growth of international air transport.

I encourage you to continue building on the momentum of the Assembly.

ICAN is a truly unique platform for deepening partnerships, sharing solutions, and delivering results that matter for people everywhere.

That is why I encourage you to approach your negotiations with openness and flexibility.

Be ready to adapt your thinking and embrace new proposals.

**Each new agreement should create better operating environments for airlines and airports, so businesses can thrive.**

**Reach agreement on policies that improve air connectivity, deliver seamless journeys for passengers, and drive the growth of international air transport.**

**And move beyond approaches that *hinder progress*.**

Focus on solutions that bring benefits to all.

**International air transport grows stronger when we embrace change, foster competition, and work together.**

**Together we can unlock new routes, drive investment, and deliver better services for passengers and businesses everywhere.**

And as you move forward, please register your Air Services Agreements with ICAO.

This registration can be done in accordance with Article 83 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

By doing this, you will help accelerate the momentum by increasing the transparency and trust in our global network.

The Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference is another opportunity to accelerate momentum.

Taking place next November at ICAO's Montréal Headquarters, the Conference will address civil aviation's new and emerging priorities and needs.

This includes more investment in sustainable airports and infrastructure, updated rules that reflect a changing world, fair work, strong supply chains, and open access to markets.

Knowing how this should look for every State and region will be key to developing policies that work for all, and to building capacity that delivers results for all.

Here at ICAN, we can shape the preparations for these crucially important discussions. Secretary General Salazar will be presenting this opportunity shortly.

*Ladies and gentlemen*, let us ensure this event is remembered as a milestone on the path towards ICAO's 2050 Vision. Aviation should be safe, secure, and accessible. No country should be left behind.

Gracias de nuevo a la República Dominicana por acogernos.

Gracias por su compromiso y su energía.

*Thank you again to the Dominican Republic for hosting us.*

*Thank you for your commitment and your energy.*

Together, we continue our journey to 2050 with confidence and purpose.

I wish you a successful and inspiring week at ICAN2025.

*Gracias.*