



**Closing remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu,
To the Second ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals
Global Summit**

(Shenzhen, China, 14 December 2018)

Good afternoon everyone,

1. We've arrived now at the conclusion of the Second ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Global Summit.
2. It's been exciting to see the interactions and energy here during the last three days, as we've explored how to practically and sustainably address the future human resource needs for international civil aviation.
3. We've learned together that doing so effectively will require our determined and collaborative efforts to attract, educate, and retain the next generation of aviation professionals at the global, regional, and national levels.
4. And we've also concluded that the ICAO NGAP programme will need to continue fostering a similar level of successful international collaboration between partner organisations, educational institutions, training centres, and UN agencies, as has been on display here in Shenzhen.
5. We have heard many views over the last three days regarding immediate shortages of aviation personnel, as well as future personnel challenges taking into account traffic growth and new innovations.

6. What this makes clear is that in order for the aviation community to adapt, meet its growing needs, and ensure the safe and efficient operation of the air transportation system, a diverse aviation workforce consisting of qualified and competent aviation professionals is required.
7. At the same time, we need to retain those skilled young people who do pursue aviation professions, and keep them sufficiently engaged in our sector.
8. Solutions to these challenges are not straightforward, but it has been clearly underscored this week that there is a need for a global NGAP strategy to assist Regions and States in developing their respective plans by:
 - Promoting human capital investment in aviation;
 - Providing global priorities and objectives for NGAP issues;
 - Presenting implementation strategies;
 - And developing and creating awareness of new educational and human resource management approaches.
9. We also heard from you about the need for different and innovative human resource development, economic and educational approaches in order to build a workforce with future-proof skills.
10. You represent the key stakeholders involved in human resources planning and development for aviation, and we are tremendously grateful for your contributions to this urgent global challenge.
11. NGAP Global Summit's provide a unique opportunity to bring you all together toward this purpose, and permit us to discover and embark on new relationships and partnerships.
12. These are being focused today around critical foundational needs which will establish the future aviation workforce, for example on the need to more proactively engage and connect to today's youth, or to do more to promote STEM resource access and assure gender parity when doing so.

13. Young men and women are this sector's future, and we can no longer afford to underestimate or undervalue the incredible potential inherent in the coming generations of women and girls.
14. Our Member States and the work they undertake through their educational and other youth-focused ministries will be critical to this success.
15. I therefore encourage those State transport and aviation officials among you to carry forward the momentum we have achieved here in Shenzhen and to continue to develop meaningful and productive long-term planning with your education and development government counterparts.
16. This level of dialogue and collaboration will be key to ensuring that we are able to develop and retain a proficient and committed next generation of aviation professionals.
17. I also strongly believe that these lines of communication must be broadened further, to industry and academia, because in many cases it will be their insights and metrics which will guide our successful strategies.
18. All of this work will ultimately help States and aviation not only to gainfully employ millions of new skilled personnel in the decades ahead... but also ensure that their contributions to air transport continue to further generate and deliver the sustainable benefits and economic growth which will be so instrumental to States' achievement of *Agenda 2030*.
19. Summit's such as this also provide an excellent means to promote best practices and new initiatives around the world.
20. ICAO's consensus-based approach to air transport progress has long recognized the value of such exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences, and certainly the same is true of our NGAP strategies and objectives.
21. Another important part of our work is forging partnerships between and among the key players in this area, and good progress was also made here on that front.

22. We have seen a new letter of intent agreement signed by ICAO with Airbus toward both NGAP and other human resources development objectives, a Training Services Agreement with the Shenzhen Airport Group, an MOU with Turkey regarding future cooperation on analytics and data visualization for aviation, and lastly a project agreed with Beihang University focused on aviation data, cyber safety and cybersecurity.
23. A further agreement was also forged in Shenzhen among Summit participants, with several attending universities agreeing to encourage the sustainable establishment of a new International Association of Aviation and Aerospace Education (Alicanto).
24. An excellent Model ICAO Forum was realized with the active participation of 200 students.
25. All of these collaborations will surely help increase momentum toward our shared goals.
26. *Ladies and gentlemen...*
27. On behalf of ICAO, its Member States, and the many organizations we work so closely with in air transport, representing both industry and civil society, I wish to congratulate you on everything which has been achieved here.
28. I would also encourage you to continue collaborating to address our NGAP challenges, and with the same degree of excitement and enthusiasm as you have displayed here in Shenzhen this week.
29. Please let once again extend our shared thanks to our hosts and supporters from the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government of Guangdong Province, the Chinese Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Beihang University, in addition to others who have sponsored specific portions of this Summit.
30. And last, but certainly not least, I would I would also like to thank all the speakers, moderators, and participants to this event for their tremendous excitement and insights, and their clear commitments to a sustainable human resource development future for global aviation.

31. We will look forward to seeing many of you again next year at our 2019 NGAP Summit, the location and dates for which are presently being determined.
32. Next year we will also be convening the 40th ICAO Triennial Assembly, and celebrating all year long the 75th Anniversary of ICAO, our Civil Aviation Convention, and the vision and determination of our Member States to share their skies to their mutual benefit.
33. We hope you will celebrate this momentous occasion with us, and on that note please let me now officially close the 2019 NGAP Summit, and wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and safe journeys home.
34. Thank you.