



**Closing Address
by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization,
Dr. Fang Liu
to the 2018 ICAO Aviation Security Symposium**

(ICAO HQ Montreal, 28 November 2018)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

1. Over the past two days at this Symposium, we have explored aviation security through the theme of ‘The Need to Know’.
 2. Topics of discussion have centred around the sharing of information as a key principle of Aviation Security, and we dug further into the challenges faced in achieving an effective balance between very common-sense ‘need to know’ restrictions, and the benefits of wider and more prompt AVSEC data and information dissemination.
 3. Taking into account both the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and United Nations Security Council resolutions 2309 (2016) and 2396 (2017), the Symposium focused on risk assessment, security culture, technology and innovation, oversight and quality assurance, and last but not least, capacity building.
 4. These are all critical priorities for us today, and ICAO has been encouraged by the fact that all of the key government and aviation sector domains implicated in addressing them were so well represented here among the 800 experts in attendance.
 5. Another very successful aspect of AVSEC2018 at ICAO was the Industry Engagement Day which kicked it off.
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6. Each of the four sessions organized around this initiative explored how regulators, industry, and ICAO can work better together to advance aviation security through new technologies and innovation.
 7. And we were also pleased to be able to offer you a series of related workshops, with topics ranging from insider threats, to developments in capacity building through *The Container Control Programme - Air (CCP-Air)*, to our newly developed workshop on security culture.
 8. As we now reach the conclusion of this event, I think it's important that we reflect together on the critical information and new opportunities which were revealed to us over the past three days.
 9. The workshops, Sky Talks, plenaries, demonstrations, and exhibition have all served to open our eyes to the many possibilities now before us for pursuing our AVSEC work in innovative and exciting ways.
 10. And they have also helped us achieve new perspectives on how to pursue new ways of sharing information with those with the need to know.
 11. It was of course no coincidence that the topics covered during this Symposium align quite closely with the priority outcomes of the GASeP.
 12. Indeed many issues which we have grappled with for years were highlighted to some degree this week.
 13. By including ICAO, Member States, Industry, and other partners in these conversations, we feel that we have established very firm foundations for long-term cooperation in solving those issues.
 14. Both the GASeP and UN Security Council Resolutions 2309 and 2396 prod us to action, and ensure we do not become stagnant but continue to seek out and implement the necessary changes.
 15. With each new threat report, and each innovation demonstrated by those who would do us harm, the resources gathered this week will prepare us for the proper response.
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16. This Symposium will now be immediately followed by the Second High-level Conference on Aviation Security (HLCAS/2). It will also consider progress on the implementation of the GAsEP, including potential adjustments to the Plan based on the outcomes of the regional aviation security conferences organized in 2017 and 2018.
 17. These propositions will be submitted for consideration by the Council, and later for subsequent endorsement by the 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly next September.
 18. In concluding now, ladies and gentlemen, let me please express ICAO's heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to this Symposium – from the sponsors and exhibitors, to the speakers, to those involved in its many months of preparation.
 19. And of course we must also recognize that it was the passion and inquisitiveness of you, the participants, who really brought value to its sessions and interactions.
 20. The formal discussions in this room, the conversations at the exhibition, and the informal exchanges and networking on the margins have all contributed immensely to the overall and quite exceptional success of AVSEC 2018.
 21. It is my honour to now officially close these proceedings, and to wish those of you not staying with us for the Conference portion of AVSEC Week 2018 safe journeys home.
 22. We'll look forward to seeing you all again next year.
 23. Thank you.
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