



**Address by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the Women in Aviation International - India Chapter – Virtual Webinar on:**

“Connecting the dots – Recovery for aviation, tourism and hospitality”

(8 January 2021, 0800 hours (Montreal time))

Good morning, afternoon, and evening, everyone.

1. I’m delighted to be participating here today alongside women who’ve so directly helped to realize a more gender-responsive aviation industry in India.
2. World leaders have long recognized that human rights, with women’s rights at the center, need to be a key part of our broader collective and global efforts for sustainable development.
3. It’s in this respect that the UN’s *Agenda 2030* is truly a ‘People’s Agenda, with commitment to gender equality which is suitably prominent, comprehensive and cross-cutting.
4. This doesn’t mean, however, that gender inequalities aren’t still deeply-rooted in our societies and industries.
5. While it is becoming more common to see women in positions of power, and prominence, in both the public and private sectors, we still remain under-represented in most professional, leadership, and decision-making categories.
6. And in the aviation sector more specifically, which is highly technical and specialized, there’s still lots of work ahead to address the gender gap – even as we continue to respond to a global pandemic.
7. With the ‘new normal’ we’ve been faced with from COVID-19, our sector has been presented with unique challenges in terms of sustaining and recovering global operations.

8. Here in India for example, you've suffered significant 50 and 60 per cent downturns in your domestic and international operations respectively, and ICAO is monitoring similar impacts all over the world.
9. Challenges of this extent and degree, however, are also key opportunities for innovation and renewal, permitting air transport leaders to realign their organizations and priorities to promote the more equal representation of women in leadership and other senior positions.
10. Women in aviation must therefore be prepared and confident, and ready to bring their talents and ideas to the forefront to help lead the air transport, tourism, and hospitality sectors to the new futures which await them.
11. As medical conditions permit, we must therefore work to accelerate the sector's recovery in every world region, and to bring prosperity and sustainability back to the countries and populations who rely on air transport and tourism for their basic economic survival.
12. This will likely be my last opportunity to address you in my capacity as ICAO Secretary General, as my second term in this role will conclude this coming August.
13. I wish to emphasize how deeply rewarding it's been for me to participate in events such as yours, and to help lead ICAO and our sector in addressing gender equality more effectively.
14. It's my fond hope that I've been able to inspire both the current and next generations of India's women in aviation to aspire to greater heights, and that you'll set no limits for yourselves in terms of your future challenges and ambitions.
15. Thank you again for inviting me here today, and I greatly look forward to today's discussions.