

IVAN GALAN
DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL COOPERATION BUREAU
WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished Members of the Council, distinguished Representatives to ICAO, Directors of ICAO Bureaus, Regional Directors of ICAO, Delegates, dear participants, ladies and gentlemen.

I am absolutely overjoyed that you have accepted our invitation to this **first symposium** on Global Aviation Cooperation and on behalf of my bureau; I would like to extend the warmest welcome to this conference.

I have just returned from visiting some of you – I was in Panama, in Costa Rica, in the Bahamas, in Mexico... in Kazakhstan just last week....so I am especially happy to see you all here in Montreal today !

We have 4 days of presentations, meetings and discussions ahead of us.....that I hope will provoke thought, raise questions, provide you with answers, and most of all **offer solutions** to challenges you may be facing in your respective countries.

The spark for this conference first came to us during an ICAO Council meeting. The question at hand was quite specific: *how can **we better support** Member States and aviation authorities in their technical needs? How can we help them achieve perfect scores **in ICAO audit programs** or support their **infrastructure growth and development?***

The answer was not complicated. We, in TCB, quickly realized we needed to bring people together: governments and aviation authorities, air navigation service provider, airport service providers, ICAO experts and industry leaders and to hold an event where we could sit and discuss, where we could **compare** and **confront ideas** and **experiences**.

So you can imagine how happy we are to see that the major civil aviation stakeholders, from governments, to agencies, to associations and industries

have joined us so that **together** we can reflect on **the future** of our industry and **prepare** to properly handle growth, to overcome challenges and ultimately to prosper as a sector!

And I would like to take this moment to personally welcome all our participants. I extend a very warm welcome to the **State Delegations** and **ICAO representatives** who are with us and I would like to welcome **government representatives** and **aviation authorities** - who have come to Montreal from the four corners of the world!

Allow me to introduce them so that we may all be more familiar with our colleagues.

I will just take a few moments – to mention the region and the country you have travelled from for this symposium

All of you, Welcome to Montreal !

And what better place to hold such a meeting than in Montreal?
Montreal: where the world of civil aviation already resides....with IATA and ACI.....and ICAO.....this was a natural venue. Thank you again for coming to our fair city.

This week you will be **updated on the latest developments** in safety, air navigation, security and facilitation, economic aspects of air transport, training, airport development and technical cooperation. We will look at latest trends and innovation. But we will also discuss business: the economic aspects that come into play in development of infrastructures or in upgrading aviation systems. Discussions will be held with stakeholders but also with the **directors** of Bureaus in ICAO; and of course with the Technical Cooperation Bureau and my team; so that we can share some of the success stories of projects realized with the assistance of our bureau!

ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau has been providing assistance to governments and implementing civil aviation projects for more than half a century. The numbers speak for themselves: assistance to more than 120 countries on a yearly basis: projects with an accumulated value in excess of

2 billion \$; close to 2,000 experts deployed worldwide. Today, as we move forward, ICAO's role is **evolving** and we no longer simply set the standards and measure them, we assist countries so they can meet the necessary standards & regulatory requirements. It's good business for the countries, good business for the airlines, good business for the industry.

We have an ambitious agenda planned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our guest speakers for having taken the time to participate. Indeed it is our speakers that make this symposium stand out; each and every one of them is an expert in his or her field: each one brings experience, knowledge and, most of all, passion to the table and we are fortunate to have them in Montreal for this conference. Thank you again.

I would also like to thank the President of the Council, the Secretary General and the entire Council for their unconditional support in this endeavor. Thank you also to the Directors and Regional ICAO Directors who are supporting the conference.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding support we received from various International Organizations, from Media and from our Official Sponsors. I especially would like to mention the General Civil Aviation Authority of the United Arab Emirates; CAA International from the UK; the Delegations of Australia and Equatorial Guinea.

Now let me tell you what we hope this symposium will achieve. We very much hope that over the course of the next few days you will **identify** areas where ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau can assist you, support you and work with you in the pursuit of excellence, safety and efficiency in civil aviation.

This week you have the opportunity to meet leaders of the aviation industry: our sponsors and our exhibitors, for example, are amongst the best in the world in their business. In addition, you can also meet officers from the most representative of aviation organizations, like IATA and ACI World.

As you can imagine, the entire ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau, our managers, our experts, our program leaders and coordinators, our officers who operate in our regional office around the world ...they are all here during this symposium, available to meet with you. And during this conference you can also meet ICAO technical experts and officers from our Air Transport and Air Navigation Bureaus. This is truly **a unique opportunity** to make new contacts and foster new relationships.

I am sure that you will find the symposium interesting. I would like to motivate you to actively participate in interacting with our speakers, asking questions, making comments: this is a great opportunity we have to work together and we must take advantage of every minute we spend together.

My team and myself are on site the entire time. Whatever you should need, please just ask. We would be happy to be of service.

I wish you a fabulous week. We invited you here for a 4-day conference, but we really hope to build a long lasting relationship. You have partners and friends at ICAO in Montreal that you can count on.

Have a great Symposium and a great time in our beautiful city!

Thank you,
