



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF  
**CIVIL AVIATION**  
TURKEY

**Welcome address by Mr. Bilal Eksi,**  
**Director General of Civil Aviation,**  
*(ICAN2015, Antalya 19.10.2015)*

Let me start by saying that it gives me great pleasure to host the 8th International Civil Aviation Negotiation ICAN 2015 Turkey meeting in the beautiful city of Antalya.

It is a privilege to welcome you to Turkey, the home of numerous civilizations over the centuries, an open-air museum where the continents and the cultures meet. As you know, this event is organized by the ICAO annually, and this year, its scope has been expanded to cover the tourism industry as well.

I am happy to say that; with 94 countries, 8 international organizations, 70 institutions from the aviation and tourism industry and 702 delegates in attendance, the 8<sup>th</sup> ICAN 2015 Turkey meeting has reached a **record**. Throughout the four-day event, hundreds of b2b meetings, workshops and 539 bilateral negotiations will be conducted.

I am confident that these meetings will be beneficial to all participating countries and organizations. This event will also enable us to introduce you to the unique cultural richness of Turkey, through various sight-seeing tours and Gala dinners.

The most important factor is **connectivity** for increasing possibilities of collaboration between countries, including tourism. And the most important factor for ensuring connectivity is airline transport. The meetings to be held over a period of 4 days will enable us to build closer ties between our countries.

Studies show that **one weekly** international frequency has the capacity to generate a turnover of 2 Million US Dollars. This means that the negotiations to be conducted over 4 days, as an estimation, may generate an additional turnover of 3.6 billion Dollars for the international aviation industry. Therefore, I would like to thank again to ICAO for organizing such an effective meeting.

Esteemed President of the ICAO,

Turkey's geographical position makes **it** a natural hub in aviation. Through implementation of several breakthroughs and policies, Turkey has seen its aviation industry grew **exponentially** over the past 13 years. While Turkey ranked 30<sup>th</sup> among ICAO member countries in air transport 13 years ago, today, it moved up to the 10<sup>th</sup> spot.

Owing to Turkey position as a continental hub, Turkish Airlines has become the airline which serves to the highest number of destinations in the world. Our aviation industry has approximately 30 thousand licensed employees and 187,000 staff members directly employed by the industry. Our aviation industry is serviced by 13 airlines, 86 maintenance organizations, 45 flight training organization and 55 airports. As the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), we undertake supervision of the industry with our 280 employees, under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications.

In line with our Ministry's vision, we actively support various studies conducted by international aviation organizations. In this context, we undertake the duties of Eurocontrol PC Presidency, SRC vice Presidency, ECAC vice Presidency and D-8 Countries Civil Aviation Group vice Presidency. We collaborate closely with EASA and FAA.

In line with the ICAO's "**No country left behind**" policy, we provide training support for our African Friends and the Turkic countries in order to further strengthen global aviation safety and security. In addition to supporting ICAO's AFI program, this year, we also signed a MoU for training to institutionalize this policy.

Turkey as ICAO's 17<sup>th</sup> biggest contributor country, supports the works conducted by its regional office and hosts its activities. Turkey's growth in the aviation industry is not just on the air transport side; but also sustained a rapid growth in the fields of maintenance and manufacture as well.

You will have the opportunity to see the activities of some of the companies in these fields, in the exhibition area. Turkey has recently added production of EASA certified training aircraft, seats and other cabin equipment to its manufacturing power, and has started the project for production of a 70 seat capacity aircraft to be used for regional operations.

Esteemed Guests,

Turkey wishes to utilize its aviation capacity, which I outlined briefly, to further enhance its supports towards the ICAO's activities in line with our Ministry's vision. In this context, Turkey has pioneered the establishment of the BSCG group and decided to present its candidacy for the ICAO Council membership in order to bring a new voice from Europe to the Council.

There is no doubt that this new voice, with its outstanding growth in Europe, will contribute significantly to the works of the ICAO Council. I am happy to inform you that Turkey's candidacy, as one of the 8 candidates in Europe, has been re-confirmed during the meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of ECAC Member States, held in Paris on October 16, 2015. 2 days ago. I would like to confirm once again that Turkey wishes to support civil aviation world in line with the ICAO's vision.

Esteemed President of the ICAO,

Dear Guests,

I hope that this four-day event will yield productive results for aviation and tourism sectors of all our countries. I would like to thank ICAO staff, who have contributed their time and efforts to organize this event.

I would also like to thank ICAN2015 official carrier and sponsor Turkish Airlines; main sponsors Pegasus Airlines, TAV Airports, and AtlasGlobal Airlines.

I would like to thank **especially** the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, for their contributions in terms of the tourism side of this event. And TURSAB as well.

I would like to thank ICF Airport, Antalya, Board Member, Mr. Abdullah KELEŞ for the time and efforts he put into planning each and every detail with my team, in order to organize this event in Antalya.

I would also like to thank all participants and all organizations and institutions who are promoting their products/services in the exhibition area.

Once again, I am delighted to have you in our beautiful country, where the continents and the cultures meet; and I thank you all for coming and contribution.