



Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of my organization, ICAO, I would like to thank all of you including speakers, panellists, moderators and moderator of the moderators, as well as everyone else who saw to the successful convening of this event. In the last couple of days, we have received a position report on the industry and have discussed and exchanged views on the various challenges with which it is faced.

We note that various mitigating measures put in place within the recent trying period have enabled airlines to halve their net losses for 2009, compared to those sustained in 2008.

Figures for this year so far, indicate that the airline industry is well on its way to full recovery despite the volcanic ash incident of last April that led to a cancellation of more than 100,000 flights. This incident underscored the importance of air transport to national and global economy.

We at ICAO would like to urge industry stakeholders to continue to work together in encouraging globalised partnerships; States to relax ownership and control rules while not neglecting the need to have in place strong measures to protect consumer interest. Industry should also work together towards eliminating the proliferation of taxes and charges, considering the negative impact of over taxation on the development of air transport. States are, in this regard, urged to adhere to ICAO's policies on taxes and charges. We need also to continue implementing serious measures to protect the environment from the adverse impact of aircraft operations while safeguarding the industry against acts of unlawful interference. The role of liberalization of air services as a stimulator of traffic growth and the attendant positive effect on national and global economy cannot be overemphasized. As recommended

by the last ATConf/5 (of 2003), ICAO will continue to act as facilitator of this concept albeit stressing the need for States to be allowed to liberalize at their own pace and in their own way.

On this note, I would like to thank everyone once again and hope you will find time to be with us next year. To those of you travelling back to your various stations, I wish you bon voyage.

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