



## ICAO Secretary General highlights secure and seamless travel and its benefits for aviation development to Argentine Ministers and WTTC/18

For immediate release

**Montréal and Buenos Aires, 23 April 2018** – ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu was in Argentina this week to engage in a series of high-level discussions on the country's aviation performance, modernization and sustainable development strategies.

While in Buenos Aires, she also took part in the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC's) 18th Global Summit, where she participated in a panel discussion surrounding a new vision for the future of secure and seamless travel.

Dr. Liu's discussions with the Argentina government's tourism and transport leaders were aimed at helping them to recognize the important socio-economic benefits of direct air transport connections between Argentina and foreign destinations and markets. She also highlighted in this context the critical need for modernized airport and air navigation infrastructure to safely and efficiently accommodate forecast air transport traffic growth.

Secretary General Liu broached these and related topics while in discussions with Ambassador Jorge Faurie, Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr Guillermo Dietrich, Minister of Transport; and Dr. Patricia Bullrich, Minister of Homeland Security. Related discussions were undertaken with Mrs. Pamela Suárez, the President of the country's Accident Investigation Board; Mr. Tomás Insausti, Administrator of Argentina's National Civil Aviation Administration; and Mr. Augustín Rodríguez, President of the State's Air Navigation Service Provider.

Dr. Liu and the Minister of Homeland Security signed a Memorandum of Understanding on ICAO's monitoring, under its Universal Security Audit Programme, of Argentina's aviation security oversight performance.

Dr. Liu also met in Buenos Aires with Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, to discuss future ICAO-UNWTO cooperation priorities, and was accompanied throughout her discussions in Argentina by the Director of ICAO's Air Transport Bureau, Mr. Boubacar Djibo, and by the ICAO South America (SAM) Office Regional Director, Mr Fabio Rahnemay Rabbani.

During her appearance at WTTC/18, Dr. Liu stressed to the audience and her fellow panellists that commercial aviation transports over half of the world's 1.4 billion tourists each year and that air travel and tourism serve as an economic lifeline for many countries, especially small island and landlocked developing States. Travel and tourism's contributions to world GDP have been consistently outpacing the global economy in recent years, rising to a total of 10.2% of world GDP (US\$7.6 trillion) as of end 2016. The sector now supports the employment of 292 million people or 1 in 10 jobs worldwide.

She also emphasized that States should observe the Standards and Recommended Practices established by ICAO in order to tackle their main security and facilitation challenges, reiterating the benefits of data-sharing between government agencies to allow cross checking of passenger data and improved efficiencies at security and border control through the use of ICAO standardized tools such as Advanced Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Public Key Directory (PKD), which are part of the ICAO TRIP strategy.

“The ICAO TRIP strategy assists States in optimizing both traveller security and facilitation, which in turn provides passengers with a secure and seamless travel experience supported by robust, risk-based, and cost-effective global clearance processes,” Dr. Liu emphasized.



ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu, centre and top, taking part in the WTTC/18 panel discussion on defining a vision for the future of secure and seamless travel. While in Buenos Aires for the prominent travel and tourism global event, Dr. Liu also engaged in a series high-level discussions with various Ministers and officials from Argentina’s government on its aviation performance and sustainable development strategies.

## Resources for Editors

### About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 192 Member States.

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