



## ICAO Council President emphasizes near and long-term air transport priorities during recent European mission

For immediate release

**Brussels, Cologne and Athens, 7 May 2019** – During his recent European mission, ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu met with air transport leaders to discuss matters relating to aviation training, human resources development and the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals, the accelerating progress of new aircraft and air services innovations now confronting global air transport regulators and operators, exponential growth and rapid digitalization of air services and the continuous efforts toward reduced air transport emissions being pursued sector-wide.

Dr. Aliu broached these and other topics, including the key issues to be addressed at ICAO's upcoming 40th Assembly this September, during bilateral discussions with Mr. Henrik Hololei, Director General for Mobility and Transport at the European Commission and with Mr. Patrick Ky, Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and other senior EASA officials.

On the topic of aviation innovation, Dr. Aliu stressed to his EASA audience that "As aviation's standard setter, it behoves ICAO to anticipate, enable, and guide the evolution these developments are now driving. We must help to foster innovation in all its forms, but at the same time safeguard the basic interoperability that has made air transport such an incredible force for peace, prosperity, and economic growth in the world."

He also focused on the current progress of ICAO's CORSIA offsetting initiative, and expressed his concerns regarding environmental taxes that some countries are either considering or have already started introducing in Europe. He warned that these moves could ultimately be counterproductive to the successful global implementation of the international CORSIA initiative.

During the EASA discussions, the Council President expressed ICAO's gratitude for the recent work the European Agency has carried out in areas such as the extension of the age limit for commercial pilots, the establishment of safety management standards for European countries, and for the EASA experts which are presently assisting ICAO in its Safety Indicator Study Group.

Later in Athens, while delivering the keynote address to the high-level Hermes Air Transport 2019 Leader's Forum, Dr. Aliu highlighted the current rate of traffic growth confronting global aviation and the many challenges it poses for the next generation of aviation pilots, technical specialists, managers and leaders, stressing that "while this growth in connectivity is highly beneficial to global socio-economic prosperity, it also carries with it some critical challenges given that increasing flight and passenger volumes need to be properly assessed and managed to maintain the historically remarkable safety and efficiency of our network."

"This is why the enhancement of regulatory capacity, and the modernization of aviation infrastructure and human resources development approaches, has become critical and why we needed to prioritize the effective alignment of national and regional aviation development plans with ICAO's Global Plans," Dr. Aliu emphasized.

During the Forum, Dr. Aliu was honoured to receive the Hermes Air Transport Leader of The Year Award from Dr. Kostas Iatrou, Director General of Hermes Air Transport Organisation, noting in his acceptance speech that the aviation community today benefits from many excellent leaders, most of whom were present at the Hermes event. Dr. Aliu took time to share the honour of the award with

“ICAO’s very dedicated Council Representatives, as well as with the various Air Navigation Commissioners, Secretariat staff, and Member State experts who have all helped ICAO become a more dynamic driver of air transport progress in recent years.”

The Council President encouraged the heads of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airports Council International (ACI), and the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), all of whom were in attendance, to participate in the Innovation Fair and Exhibition that ICAO is currently organizing as part of its Fifth World Aviation Forum on Air Transport (IWAF/5) to be held on 23 September 2019, the eve of its Triennial Assembly.

While in Athens, the President met with the Director General of the Greek Civil Aviation Authority, Mr. Konstantinos Lintzerakos with whom he discussed both the challenges and good progress made with regard to the restructuring and separation of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Air Navigation Provider.

Dr. Aliu concluded his extensive European mission with visits and talks with the heads of several European air transport organizations and operators, including SESAR Executive Director Mr. Florian Guillermet, EUROCONTROL Director General Mr. Eamonn Brennan, and other government aviation and private sector officials.



Left: ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu (centre right) with EASA Executive Director Mr. Patrick Ky (centre left), its Director Mr. Luc Tytgat, and ICAO’s EURNAT Regional Director Ms. Silvia Gehrler. At right the ICAO Council President is seen with Dr. Kostas Iatrou of Hermes Air Transport (far left), IATA Director General Mr Alexandre de Juniac (2nd from left), Mr. Henrik Hololei, Director General for Mobility and Transport at the European Commission (3rd from right), ACI Director General Ms Angela Gittens (2nd from right), and CANSO Director General Mr. Jeff Poole (far right).

## 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 193 Member States.

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## Contacts

### Anthony Philbin

Chief, Communications

[aphilbin@icao.int](mailto:aphilbin@icao.int)

+1 514-954-8220

+1 438-402-8886 (mobile)

Twitter: [@ICAO](#)

**William Raillant-Clark**

Communications Officer

[wraillantclark@icao.int](mailto:wraillantclark@icao.int)

+1 514-954-6705

+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](#)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)