



**Remarks by the  
Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,  
to the 5<sup>th</sup> UAE AVSEC Global**

*(5 October 2021)*

1. I would like to begin by thanking our generous UAE hosts for organizing and conducting this important event on biennial basis; and for the role it plays in raising the profile of aviation security and security culture – both regionally and globally.
2. ICAO has just recently concluded its own AVSEC Symposium, where we commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. Both events remind us of how important it is today to ‘connect minds and secure the future’, consistent with this year’s **5<sup>th</sup> AVSEC Global** theme.
3. Throughout the pandemic, States and industry have responded very quickly through ICAO to ensure vital and secured air services, while bearing in mind the persisting threats posed by international terrorism and other sources.
4. Despite the many COVID constraints we’ve faced, ICAO has been continuing to deliver on its ambitious Aviation Security and Facilitation work programme, in advance of next year’s Assembly.
5. The pandemic has posed many challenges and taught us many new lessons, driving us to adapt and evolve to maintain secure operations under very demanding circumstances.
6. As operators continue to recover from its impacts, as they did after the 9/11 attacks, we have been presented with another opportunity to re-think our approaches, update our programmes and strategies, and above all, to stay flexible and responsive as international air transport recovers and redefines itself, and as its threats continue to evolve.

7. This requires that the global Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for aviation security continue to evolve as well, as reflected in our continuous modernization of Annex 17 on *Security to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*, and regular updating of the *ICAO Aviation Security Global Risk Context Statement*.
8. It also requires that ICAO transforms itself into a more responsive and results-driven agency, an objective I am leading in support of all of aviation's current Strategic Objectives.
9. In the coming months and years, aviation security stakeholders will need to evolve their approaches and update their programmes and strategies.
10. This in turn will require new types of technologies, experts, and partners, and more intensified coordination among security and other stakeholders from the aviation and health sectors.
11. Indeed innovation is accelerating to such an extent today, and bringing together so many non-traditional partners, that no one can rest idly on their assumptions of how aviation security may look or function in even just ten years' time.
12. In the face of this, we need to become constant learners, and stay adaptive and agile in our thinking and approaches.
13. We also need to be much more proactive in engaging with other aviation domains, including cybersecurity, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and air cargo management, to highlight just a few.
14. Another important priority is to advocate for Security to be treated as a commercial asset in airport and airline business planning, rather than a burdensome obligation as many view it now.
15. Lastly, we must continuously assure that emerging AVSEC solutions remain robust, practical, and affordable, for countries both developed *and developing*.
16. Consistent with the campaign ICAO has been running this year, I must emphasize the importance of promoting a strong, effective, and inclusive Security Culture in aviation as a prerequisite for many of these outcomes.

17. This key and common priority aligns not only with ICAO's Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP), but also recent UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism resolutions, and calls we've received directly from States at our last ICAO Assembly.
18. To identify and organize our efforts and outcomes pertaining to these latest priorities, the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and its 2023 and 2030 targets will continue to serve as our guiding sectoral strategy and roadmap.
19. I mentioned ICAO's own **AVSEC2021 Symposium** a moment ago, which was held last month on the theme of 'Business NOT as usual'.
20. It featured discussions and expert insights on how to be prepared for the future, and how to foster innovations to address that future which make holistic sense in terms of the human, operational, and financial perspectives.
21. The pandemic has revealed that we have a great deal of new progress to make in the months and years ahead, and ICAO will be proud to serve as the nexus of strategic global leadership and effective government and industry cooperation in support of those important efforts.
22. As this is my first opportunity to address this event as ICAO's new Secretary General, I wish to assure you of the importance I assign to our security programme priorities, and appreciate as well as the tremendous progress your community has achieved in the past two decades.
23. Because of your efforts the Middle East currently achieves ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) scores surpassing the global average.
24. We're very grateful to the UAE and to other States for championing this important mission alongside us, and I wish to acknowledge here as well the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its hosting of the Middle East Cooperative Aviation Security Programme (CASP-MID).

25. I look forward to our exchanges today on what we can achieve together in aviation security and sustainability post-pandemic.
26. Thank you.