



**Address by the  
Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar  
to the Council of Directors Meeting of the  
Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)**

*(Virtual message – 24 November 2021)*

1. I wish to begin today by thanking the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) and Chairman Vial for the kind invitation to participate in this dialogue.
2. I also wish to express my appreciation to the government of Vanuatu for the financing and facilities it provides to this important organization, and to Australia and New Zealand for the funds they've recently earmarked for direct PASO support.
3. ICAO is very much aware of what the pandemic's disruption to air connectivity has meant for Pacific region Small Island Developing States, and to your many citizens and communities who depend so strongly on air travel and tourism for their basic livelihoods.
4. These and many related considerations highlight the urgent need to reactivate aviation in this region, and to reconnect you to the world.
5. At ICAO's recently-concluded High-level Conference on COVID-19, the Safety Stream it featured specifically recognized the importance of increased assistance and continued support for Pacific Island States and PASO, while formally acknowledging the incredibly profound impacts you're facing here.
6. Current recovery priorities for your States include paying extra close attention to local safety and security performance, fast-tracking your *Needs Study* recommendations, and taking best advantage of the environmental protection assistance at your disposal.
7. To help address these and other specific needs you face, the recruitment by ICAO of the dedicated Pacific Liaison Officer, to be funded by donor states, remains a priority.

8. We are also now prioritizing Pacific Island States for complementary i-Pack assistance.
9. i-Pack implementation packages contain a variety of tools, expertise and resources tailored to helping States assure a smooth restart and recovery of their air operations.
10. They address topics such as airports, aviation security, public health corridor establishment, and passenger facilitation, with some of these solutions already being adopted or coordinated with Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
11. All of this is being made possible thanks to generous contributions from donor States and other partners which ICAO coordinates. And this reminds me as well that the next Aviation Safety Risk Management course to be delivered by ICAO is being offered free to all 14 Pacific island Developing States, thanks to funding from the Indonesian Government.
12. I must stress at this juncture that all of the ICAO assistance and guidance you can benefit from, remains wholly dependent on you actively engaging with us, and that you'll have an opportunity later today to reach out with any questions on any subject.
13. Today's Q&A provides an especially important opportunity to clarify the requirements for the Needs Study recommendations, and we look forward to assisting on that and other topics.
14. In concluding today, I would encourage your countries' near-term participation in ICAO's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), while expressing my thanks to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore for their targeted CORSIA assistance to your most vulnerable island nations.
15. I'd also like to applaud this region for the progress achieved at the Pacific Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting last June, and most notably concerning the Port Moresby Declaration on Aviation Safety and Security.
16. My closing pledge to you today is that ICAO will assure more responsive and effective teamwork with States, industry, and international partnering organizations going forward, and will lead the global air transport community in reuniting people, societies, and economies again.

17. Despite what many are now projecting and the challenges ahead, I am more reassured today, than ever, that we have the solidarity and capacity to assure a faster success toward reconnecting the world and achieving greater prosperity.
  
18. Thank you.