



**Recorded Remarks
by ICAO Secretary General
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
to the UN Conference on Trade and Development
eCommerce Week 2022**

(Virtual Event, 4 April 2022)

1. It's a great honour to participate in the opening and help set the stage for this important event, and I wish to thank our colleagues at UNCTAD for inviting ICAO to contribute to the progress being achieved.
2. With the current and very rapid growth being seen in the air cargo industry, a coordinated and collaborative approach is paramount.
3. Civil aviation authorities and all other relevant stakeholders must be fully engaged if we are to automate and achieve the end-to-end security and facilitation now being pursued for the global air cargo supply chain.
4. Digitalization is a priority we've embraced at ICAO today, and with respect to the air cargo clearance process, it's also high on the agenda of many cargo stakeholders worldwide.
5. Simply put, this represents the most efficient means of managing the vast amount of data this challenge involves, and which is presently being exchanged among a multitude of stakeholders.
6. To ensure better compliance and faster clearance of low-risk cargo, and augment the velocity of business connectivity worldwide, **digitalization is therefore a key first priority** to help us manage this system more efficiently.
7. This takes us to **the second priority** you're faced with, which is to support this evolution with effective policies, regulations, standards and systems that enable increased connectivity.

8. Concrete steps must be taken in this direction by all of the key partners and organizations this involves, with benefits ranging from improved trade facilitation and humanitarian response to more resilient operational efficiency and sustained commercial viability.
9. The ongoing pandemic further compels us to move beyond discussions and encouragement, and to pursue the collaborative action necessary between governments, industry, and all other players in the multimodal ecosystem.
10. Maximizing the benefits of these partnerships and collaborations are **the third key priority** facing eCommerce stakeholders globally, and accordingly ICAO and UNCTAD have recently joined other United Nations agencies in signing the *Joint Statement* on international trade and supply chains and the sustainable socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
11. In another recent example of collaboration ICAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe have delivered new guidance for governments and industry concerning the digital exchange of transport documents.
12. In addition, the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly to be held this year in September, also provides an opportunity to highlight key air freight issues so that States and industry stakeholders can support its inclusion in the ICAO Work programme and budget for the coming triennium.
13. ICAO has organized a panel of experts for eCommerce Week, which will convene on Wednesday, 27 April. I wish to also assure you today of ICAO's full commitment to supporting the development and implementation of robust standards to support these efforts, and to foster the improved air transport connectivity more generally, which is so fundamental to the future sustainability of societies and economies.
14. I would encourage your full engagement with these experts, and in the meantime, I will wish you all a very productive meeting.
15. Thank you.