



**Closing remarks
by the Secretary General of ICAO,
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the 2024 Global Implementation Support Symposium**

(Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 2 May 2024)

1. Distinguished Ministers, Directors General of Civil Aviation, Industry representatives, Colleagues, and friends,
2. Two years ago, the first Global Implementation Support Symposium held in Türkiye underscored the crucial importance of capacity building in the global air transportation system.
3. As the world emerged from the pandemic, we discussed strategies for ICAO to support States in effectively implementing standards and recommended practices, and achieving the objectives of aviation plans at all levels.
4. Last year, at the Symposium held in the Republic of Korea, we reaffirmed our commitment to helping States overcome capacity-building challenges. We emphasized the need for ICAO to better integrate its standards-making and implementation support activities, allowing us to be more agile and effective.
5. Participating Ministers reminded us of the crucial role of internationally adopted standards in addressing emerging issues like cyber security, digital transformation, advanced air mobility, and environmental stewardship.
6. We recognized the importance of civil aviation as an economic engine for change and prosperity, and we discussed strategies for recruiting and training the next generation of aviation professionals.
7. This week, while here in the Dominican Republic paradise of Punta Cana, we focused on the critically urgent issue of climate change.

8. Ministers shared their strategies for augmenting the benefits of air transport, as we progress towards the Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. They addressed the capacity development needs and implementation support activities necessary to achieve our environmental goals.
9. Experts shared practical strategies for advancing our technical posture in areas such as advanced air mobility, cyber security, and crisis preparedness.
10. Our TRAINAIR Plus Members explored ways to build sustainable capacity through effective training.
11. A common theme has emerged throughout these three GISS symposia: the power of collaboration in solving our biggest challenges. The increasing complexity of the global air transportation system will place greater demands on States, and many will face difficulties in meeting these demands.
12. As an interdependent aviation community, we all feel the impact of implementation challenges, regardless of where they occur. ICAO and its Member States have a shared responsibility to leave no country behind. This reflects the acknowledgment that the whole world benefits when all States fully implement internationally developed standards and recommended practices and enhances sustainability.
13. ICAO remains committed to providing focused, agile leadership to facilitate global capacity building. Our products, services, and standards will continue to result from participatory and data-informed processes, aligning with stakeholder goals and State implementation capacity needs. Where gaps exist, we will work with Member States, industry, and funding mechanisms to identify and leverage appropriate funding modalities. Our partners from around the world continue demonstrating their commitment through their voluntary financial contributions and secondment in-kind contributions. The United States and Canada have been significant contributors, supporting various initiatives in the areas of aviation security, facilitation, accident investigation, and the development of iPacks. Mexico continues to be instrumental in supporting ICAO's operations by hosting our NACC regional office in Mexico City. Among these, our recent collaboration with the European Union illustrates the diverse nature of our engagement strategy. The EU has provided nearly four million Euros to fund sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) feasibility studies and other environmental initiatives. They have also aided in the development of our newest iPack, addressing

accident and incident data reporting. These examples showcase the global commitment to fostering a sustainable and resilient aviation sector.

14. As we close the 2024 Global Implementation Support Symposium during this 80th anniversary year of the Chicago Convention, I want to thank each and every one of you for your enthusiastic engagement.
15. I especially express my deepest gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic for hosting the GISS this year, joining Turkiye and the Republic of Korea in institutionalizing capacity building as our core mission. I also sincerely thank Mr. Hector Porcella, title? from IDAC for all he has done to make this year's event such a success. And finally, I want to thank contributing States and other donors and partners who have shown such great trust in ICAO implementation support provided to States.
16. Together, let us continue our unwavering commitment to fostering a safe, secure, and sustainable global air transportation system, that benefits all of humanity. The future of aviation is bright, and with your resolve, enthusiasm, and technical competence, we will soar to new heights.
17. Before we part, I invite you to watch this short video offering an exciting glimpse into the 2025 Global Implementation Support Symposium, where we will showcase the latest innovations and collaborations in aviation capacity building.
18. I would like to invite Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority, to join me on stage and share his thoughts regarding our goals for 2025. Thank you, Mr. Al Suwaidi, the floor is now yours.
19. Thank you.