



**Address by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the AFI Aviation Symposium during the 9th Edition of AFI Aviation Week**

Libreville, Gabon

Wednesday, 18 July 2024

1. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the AFI Aviation Symposium, a cornerstone event of the AFI Aviation Week. This ninth edition marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance aviation across the African continent. We are grateful to the Republic of Gabon for hosting us in the beautiful city of Libreville.
2. Our symposium's programme will address ICAO's new Strategic Goals for 2026-2050, as outlined in the updated Strategic Plan. These goals include:
 - Every Flight is Safe and Secure;
 - Growth is Environmentally Sustainable;
 - Aviation Delivers Reliable, Accessible and Seamless Mobility for All;
 - No Country is Left Behind;
 - International Civil Aviation Convention, Treaties, Laws and Regulations address all Challenges; and
 - Air Transport Delivers Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All
3. We will discuss how these goals shape the future of international civil aviation and explore strategies to achieve ICAO's vision of "a safe, secure and sustainable global aviation system that connects the world for the benefit of all nations and people."
4. The aviation industry is at a critical juncture. As we recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're seeing encouraging signs of growth. Notably, the air traffic volume in the AFI Region has hit one million departures for the first time ever, which is a very positive achievement. However, we also face new challenges and opportunities. The projected growth in air traffic, the integration of

new types of aircraft, and the urgent need to address climate change all require our immediate attention and collaborative action.

5. The symposium will showcase success stories, identify current and emerging challenges to international civil aviation in Africa, and explore collaborative strategies to address these issues effectively.
 6. Our discussions will encompass a wide range of critical topics. These include emerging aviation safety issues, the implementation of essential Air Navigation Services, the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems. We will also explore current trends in air transport regarding traffic and connectivity, the implementation of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) – a flagship programme of the African Union, and the adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) in Africa.
 7. The symposium will also explore strategies for integrating aviation training capacities and establishing mechanisms to facilitate resource mobilization for sustainable aviation training, among other crucial topics.
 8. The persistent lack of qualified technical personnel and related challenges in their remuneration and retention continue to pose serious obstacles for States striving to meet their safety and security oversight, and other international obligations under the Chicago Convention.
 9. It is, therefore critically important that States conduct training needs analyses. I strongly urge you to utilize the tools developed by ICAO Training. These invaluable resources will help you identify present and future training gaps, enabling you to allocate your resources prudently and effectively.
 10. I encourage you to engage in robust, interactive discussions on innovative initiatives that can propel aviation forward in Africa and globally. Your insights and collaborative efforts are crucial in shaping the future of our industry.
 11. In closing, I wish you very fruitful deliberations. I look forward to receiving the outcomes of this symposium, which I am confident will provide valuable insights for enhancing the development of aviation in Africa. Your work here will play a vital role in mapping out our path forward.
 12. Thank you.
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