



**Introductory remarks,  
by the Secretary General of the  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Fang Liu,  
to the “Discussion with Industry Leaders” Panel portion  
of the Intl. Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (IAOPA)  
World Assembly**

*(Chicago, 21 July 2016)*

*Distinguished Panelists,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

1. Air transport, as we are all aware, is an increasingly essential component of our global society.
2. It is a crucial driver of economic, social and cultural development worldwide, supporting some 62 million jobs while generating more than 2.7 trillion dollars in global GDP., enabled through the effective implementation of ICAO’s global Standards
3. General aviation is an integral member of the civil aviation community, and an important contributor to these positive impacts.
4. It is appreciated at all levels for its roles in effective pilot training, search and rescue operations, the delivery of humanitarian and emergency aid, and in many other areas of aerial work and leisure travel.
5. As air transport activity continues to grow rapidly during the coming decades, it is vital that we seek to ensure that a vibrant and sustainable general aviation sector grows along with it.
6. Granted that growth will be more complex than in the past, notably as it will now entail not only new routes, but also new aircraft types and, in the case of remotely-piloted operations, an entire new family of aircraft.
7. Fortunately, ICAO and the general aviation sector have already established a very healthy and productive level of collaboration, and one which will benefit our efforts on further challenges going forward.

8. This includes, of course, our joint work on Annex 6 Part II - *International General Aviation – Aeroplanes*, but it has also expanded to Safety Management, Environmental Protection and the overall modernization of global Air Navigation systems.
9. I would like to acknowledge that ICAO is aware of and sensitive to the related concerns of IAOPA and its community, for instance regarding whether this modernization may be realized at the expense of the general aviation community.
10. But I would also like to reassure you that the Member States of ICAO understand that a balanced approach is key to making the future system sustainable.
11. This is the case with respect to increased equipage and training requirements, the reduction of ‘Class G’ airspace to make room for new routes, or the proliferation of approvals required to fly internationally.
12. We also clearly understand that if the general aviation community shrinks, then so does the pool of skilled pilots which are so essential to the future viability of our network – especially in developing countries.
13. In this regard, please let me reiterate that we very much look forward to your community’s continued contributions through ICAO – both to the consensus-based determination of practical and effective Standards and Policies for aviation, and to your assistance in helping to assure those same Standards and Policies are effectively implemented.
14. The cooperation and commitment of organizations such as the IAOPA are essential to our success today, and I am very encouraged that our many shared objectives will help to make our working relationship even more productive in the future.
15. Thank you.