



**Remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the 53rd Asia and Pacific
DGCA Meeting**

(Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1 August 2016)

Mr. H. M. C. Nimalsiri, Director General of

Civil Aviation and CEO of the Civil

Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka

Council President Aliu,

Regional Director Mishra,

Distinguished Asia-Pacific DGCA

and colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Let me please begin by extending my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Nimalsiri and our Sri Lankan hosts, for their very generous hospitality and esteemed invitation to me to join you here today.
2. Given my long experience helping to foster greater air transport cooperation and progress in the Asia and Pacific, I stand firmly together with you to face the challenges today in this region– for instance in the face of rapidly growing air traffic.
3. Asia and Pacific is now the largest air transport passenger market in the world, with fully 32 per cent of total scheduled revenue passenger-kilometres (RPKs) performed, and an impressive 9.2 per cent growth rate in 2015.
4. This rate of growth is four times the world average, and clearly points to the extent of both challenges and opportunities.
5. I would emphasize very strongly in this regard that the effective implementation of ICAO SARPs is essential to the efforts to manage growth, safely, securely and efficiently.

6. In monitoring the progress of Asia and Pacific civil aviation, I have been encouraged by the actions and commitments of Mr. Mishra and his team to help to coordinate the assistance and capacity-building required in aid of that goal.
7. The challenges this poses to ICAO's Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and indeed all of ICAO's Regional Offices, has been an important priority for those of us in ICAO Headquarters as well.
8. It has been a key priority for me, as ICAO Secretary General, to rationalize the Organization's management and resourcing, and to re-engineer our business units so that they may provide the most effective support possible to our many, and varied, strategic priorities.
9. (note: PRES will speak after SG) This has been an especially important process with respect to ICAO's ongoing *No Country Left Behind* initiative, and to our Regional Offices. Their role in assessing and driving the assistance and capacity-building now required for States is nothing short of essential.
10. Under the new ICAO Business Plan, I have sought to support this process by establishing **Key Priorities** to advance the realization of the **Expected Results** attributable to the Organization's five **Strategic Objectives**.
11. We have also established **Focus Areas** to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of ICAO's work, and first among these is: "*Strengthening ICAO's Regional Presence*".
12. This clearly establishes just how important we now view the role of our Regional Offices, and highlights why we are restructuring them to better meet your needs.
13. By strengthening our Regional Offices' responsibilities and accountability, we can better ensure seamless organizational coordination with States and other partners at both the global and regional levels.
14. This process also aids the generation of political will required to build capacity and promote and implement our key *No Country Left Behind* initiatives, for instance towards human resources development or infrastructure modernization.

15. Another benefit is that a strengthened ICAO Regional presence can enhance the ability of States to identify their needs, and to subsequently address specific issues in a regional context which is fully harmonized with global targets.
16. The flight procedure and air traffic management support now being provided by our Regional Sub-office (RSO) in Beijing is an excellent example of this process.
17. Ultimately, I would like for us to lay out a new strategic direction for the ICAO Secretariat, ensuring that it is optimally organized and staffed both operationally and administratively, efficiently run, financially sound and viable, and beholden to realistic performance and results management measures.
18. And externally, through new and more substantial partnerships with international and regional organizations, ICAO can advance programmatic issues of mutual interest.
19. This helps us to avoid duplication of effort with other multilateral partners, while optimizing resources, notably in the context of UN *Agenda 2030*.
20. We have therefore established extensive Key Outcomes for all of our Regional Offices, aligned across all of our areas of strategic priority.
21. These Outcomes very much respect the reality that our Regional teams are at the forefront of our mission, and that it is at the regional level where the bulk of our work must now be accomplished.
22. In closing today, dear friends and colleagues, please let me reiterate ICAO's commitment to continuous improvement with respect to how we streamline our organization and provide cost-effective and results-driven support to States.
23. This is more important today than at any other period in our Organization's history, and it is essential that we all move together in partnership toward our shared goals.
24. Your respective progress and commitments have been tremendously appreciated by ICAO. And I am sure that as Asia and Pacific civil aviation continues to grow, safely, securely and efficiently, so too will the sustainable prosperity of the local citizens and businesses.

Thank you.