



**Closing Remarks
by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization,
Dr. Fang Liu
to the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly**

(ICAO HQ Montréal, 6 October 2016)

President of the Assembly, Mr. Azharuddin Abdul Rahman,
President of the Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It has been my great honour as the first woman Secretary General, to serve this 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly.
2. Fully 30% more work has been accomplished than at any previous Meeting of this kind, and we could only have accomplished it through the commitment and dedication of all Delegations.
3. Let me begin by extending our deep appreciation to the President you elected for this 39th Assembly, Mr. Azharuddin Abdul Rahman of Malaysia.
4. And also to the Vice-presidents and Chairpersons of the Committees and Commissions which have supported your work.
5. And may we also please show a sign of our thanks to the ICAO Secretariat, a great many of whom have sacrificed their nights and weekends not only these past two weeks, but also in the lead-up to this event.
6. As President Aliu, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, and many others underscored at the outset of this Meeting, the eyes of the world were upon us at ICAO these past nine days.
7. Your endorsement of the aviation GMBM has answered their expectations with an historic first, and one which makes air transport the very first major industry sector to take action at the global level on international emissions.
8. Those of us who have a clear understanding and appreciation of the critical role of safe and dependable air services in fostering global peace, enhancing economic capacity, and driving truly sustainable prosperity for all, will recognize the GMBM as a balanced, pragmatic, and very positive development.

9. It will serve as an important new tool to complement the emissions reduction progress already being achieved in air transport through the technological innovations, modernized procedures, and the ever-expanding use of sustainable alternative fuels under aviation's basket of measures.
10. World governments have also taken advantage of this Assembly to demonstrate the strength of their climate resolve, and to such an extent that over 85% of international aviation operations will be governed by the GMBM from its earliest stages, in 2021.
11. In fact, there were also many other important Environmental Protection priorities you have addressed at this Assembly.
12. You have recognized ICAO's development of the first-ever global CO2 emissions certification Standard for aircraft, as well as our just-as-ground-breaking work on a new non-volatile Particulate Matter emissions Standard.
13. And under your leadership we will continue our work on a new supersonic noise Standard for future aircraft, while enhancing the progress being achieved on all aspects of aircraft noise through the ICAO Balanced Approach.
14. Another very important development emerging from this Assembly has been your endorsement of the development by ICAO of a new Global Aviation Security Plan.
15. With landside, airside, cybersecurity and other threats now constantly evolving, and with the role of closer cooperation among local, national and international agencies more important than ever to how we confront these risks, it was critical that we acknowledged ICAO's responsibility to provide strategic leadership.
16. It's also highly appreciated that you continue to endorse the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Strategy, including its travel document, Public Key Directory (PKD), and assistance and capacity building priorities.
17. And you have also supported our goal to establish Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation planning to benefit the Middle East, similar to what we have achieved under the AFI SECFAL Plan.
18. Safety, of course, remains ICAO's and global aviation's most fundamental concern, and here too we have made some important progress.

19. The revision you have adopted to the Global Aviation Safety Plan includes a roadmap which will further enhance our Safety Management approach, for both government and industry partners.
20. The direction is also clear to continue driving more targeted cooperative safety progress under the ICAO AFI Plan, and your endorsement of ICAO's new emergency preparedness strategy will help us to be even more responsive when it matters most.
21. With respect to our planning and programmes in the Air Navigation area, the endorsement of the Global Air Navigation Plan revisions will permit us to move forward on important adjustments to the Aviation System Block Upgrades.
22. You have directed ICAO to continue making flights greener and more efficient through Performance-based Navigation, and you have acknowledged the important need for ICAO to convene a 13th Air Navigation Conference in 2018.
23. All of these decisions are instrumental to our ongoing challenge to address and efficiently manage significant and sector-wide passenger and traffic growth.
24. You have also reconfirmed your support at this 39th Assembly for ICAO's leadership role in realizing policies and programmes supporting sustainable Economic Development.
25. Here too you have acknowledged the need for a new ICAO Global Air Transport Plan, as well as our finalization of international agreements for the liberalization of market access, air cargo, and air carrier ownership and control.
26. You have endorsed our Action Plan to customize and update pertinent forecasts to better support human resources development planning, which will provide critical support for the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals.
27. And you have asked us to become more comprehensive in how we share data across our partner networks in support of these and other planning goals, while increasing awareness on ICAO's core principles for consumer protection.
28. Ladies and gentlemen,
29. These strong endorsements from our Member States have provided us with a very solid foundation from which to progress ICAO's work.
30. But we must also ask ourselves:

How well prepared is ICAO to ensure that it can do so efficiently and cost-effectively?

31. Fortunately, with your confirmation of our budget and acknowledgment of the new ICAO Business Plan, our Organization can continue to re-purpose its resources and become an even more responsive United Nations agency.

32. The ICAO Business Plan will be continuously updated based on our Performance Management Framework, Key Performance Indicators, and Risk Registry.
33. And through this risk-based approach, as well as other performance-based transformations to ICAO's corporate culture, we will be better-equipped to advocate aviation's benefits, and to enhance both the coordination and accountability of technical cooperation projects.
34. These profound transformations have been greatly aided by the commitments and contributions of ICAO's senior management team, and they will significantly benefit our continuing work under *No Country Left Behind*.
35. ICAO will also be able to do more with less on your behalf by optimizing Global Partnerships for Aviation Development, and by expanding our efforts for Resource Mobilization to implement unfunded programmes and assist States by facilitating access to funding.
36. Your decision to increase the number of States represented on the ICAO Council and its supporting Air Navigation Commission, will further guide us in the years ahead.
37. This will expand not only the number of diplomatic and technical experts contributing to those esteemed bodies, but also the geographic and cultural diversity reflected in their decisions.
38. ICAO will also be greatly aided by the cooperation formalized in the many new partnerships and MOUs which we have forged on the sidelines of this Assembly, in addition to those realized at the Second ICAO World Aviation Forum.
39. We are truly grateful for the clear testament to the importance of our role which is represented in these many new partnerships.
40. In closing dear colleagues, let me lastly acknowledge that this 39th session of the ICAO Assembly has benefitted from the participation of more than 2,200 delegates from 185 Member States, non-Member States and 56 observer delegations – the highest number we have ever hosted.
41. The Council President and I have been very encouraged to see such a high level of interest from Member States and industry in the work of ICAO, recognizing and supporting our leading role in global aviation.
42. Until our good fortune to meet again, whether here in Montréal or in your respective States and Regions, may I wish all of you safe journeys home and continued success on all of the challenges we're addressing in support of our remarkable global network.
43. Thank you.

END