



ICAO

**Welcome Address by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the CAR/SAM Aviation Data and Analysis Regional Seminar**

(Havana, 20 July 2017)

1. Let me begin this morning by commending Cuba's recognition of the crucial role data and analysis play in supporting the sustainable development of the air transport sector.
2. It is because of Cuba's proactive approach to these matters, that after rounds of consultations between ICAO Secretariat and myself, with the Representative of Cuba on ICAO Council as well as Cuban Civil Aviation Authority, we have today's *Aviation Data and Analysis Regional Seminar*.
3. On behalf of ICAO, I would like to express our shared gratitude to the team from the Cuban Civil Aviation Authority, for hosting this event and for their leadership on these matters. Your assistance and cooperation are greatly appreciated.
4. Data and analysis are key to understanding emerging trends and issues. The stakes are massive here: In 2016, aviation directly generated some 10 million jobs and approximately 725 billion USD in global gross domestic product (GDP). More locally for the Latin American and Caribbean regions, these impacts helped to provide around 900,000 jobs and approximately 50 billion USD to your regions' GDP.
5. The cross-cutting nature of aviation to other economic sectors has helped its overall economic impact rise to 3.5 per cent of world GDP. This is equivalent to an annual economic contribution globally of 2.7 trillion dollars.
6. At the same time air transport generates some 67.3 million jobs worldwide. Looking more closely at the Latin American and Caribbean regions, aviation generates approximately 169 billion dollars in GDP and supports the direct and indirect employment of 6 million people.
7. These are obviously critical contributions to many local objectives in terms of enhanced tourism and trade and expanded access to foreign markets and supplies for local producers.
8. In short, civil aviation supports greater prosperity and provides a sustainable economic foundation. The tax base it generates enables governments to plan and invest well into the future.
9. On this note, as many of you will be aware, in 2015 the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals or 'SDGs', under its visionary *Agenda 2030*. The pursuit of these goals has highlighted the significant importance of data and statistics as we seek to monitor our shared progress, refine our policies and ensure the due accountability of all stakeholders.

10. ICAO was chosen to be the custodial agency responsible for providing data and analysis to the UN and Member States on the global progress being realized in the development of cross border infrastructure.
11. This key indicator plays a critical role in driving the commitments and actions of Member States in support of infrastructure development for both the civil aviation and intermodal transport sectors.
12. The United Nations also recognizes ICAO as the central agency responsible for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization, improvement and dissemination of statistics pertaining to civil aviation specifically.
13. In light of aviation's crucial socio-economic relevance, we take those responsibilities very seriously.
14. Indeed, Article 67 of the Chicago Convention provides that our 191 Member States are to ensure that their registered airlines will file and submit traffic reports, cost statistics and financial statements to ICAO.
15. This has resulted in government policy makers, businesses leaders, and academic and community researchers depending on ICAO's compilation of sound structural and performance statistics about the air transport industry.
16. In light of our official responsibilities in this area and the needs associated with them, we are committed to further developing and refining comprehensive and objective international civil aviation data.
17. The importance of authoritative data and analyses in support of the air transport planning needs of States and industry is increasingly coming in to focus as significant growth offers significant promise.
18. ICAO's figures show that some 3.8 billion passengers took advantage of air transport services for their business and travel needs in 2016. This number is up 6.8 per cent compared to 2015, and is expected to be doubled by 2030.
19. Airlines in the Latin American and Caribbean Region carried around 267 million passengers in 2016, and accounted for 7.0 per cent of the world's total passengers.
20. Data collection and analysis provides an objective and essential foundation for evidenced-based policy making. It informs all of our shared planning and programme development covering all of the Strategic Objectives of ICAO, and it is of fundamental importance to how governments will integrate their air aviation development projects into their wider national development and transport planning.
21. These priorities especially help to highlight the purpose and importance of this Seminar. By building capacity and providing assistance to Member States in the crucial area of data and analysis, ICAO understands that governments will then be better placed to monitor and benchmark their performance, and to take appropriate evidence-based policy decisions to ensure their aviation sectors and local socio-economic prosperity progress both cost-effectively and sustainably.
22. These are not just medium term issues. According to the latest long-term ICAO air traffic forecasts, the 3.8 billion airline passengers carried in 2016 are expected to grow to about 10.0 billion by 2040, with the number of departures projected to rise to some 95 million.

23. The technical challenge posed by this growth is to ensure that the safety, security and capacity of the global aviation system are maintained or improved upon, even as operations expand significantly. This requires the international community to invest significantly in collective proactive efforts, whether for sufficient infrastructure or skilled human resources, and for governments to ensure their local air transport sector is fully compliant with ICAO's global standards.
24. This is why Cuba's leadership on these issues, in bringing together such diverse aviation stakeholders at this seminar to review the current situation, and trends of aviation in this Region, including the synergies here between aviation, tourism, e-commerce and trade, is a crucial contribution to the sustainability of air transport here.
25. The convening of this seminar will result in a better understanding of the needs of the various stakeholders. It will help all of you to achieve a better understanding of the challenges before you and the most cost effective means of addressing these. This seminar is directly supportive of the priority we are placing on assistance and capacity building for States in ICAO today, something which is being coordinated globally under our No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative
26. Ladies and gentlemen, if we are to ask ourselves why data and analysis matter as much as they do today, the answer is effective management and the achievement of results.
27. We are all faced by the challenges of shrinking public sector budgets in almost everything we work toward, and by the expectation that we will make use of the most advanced planning, management and accountability tools as we seek to drive future progress on our objectives.
28. The objectives we are seeking can literally save lives and make a tremendous difference in the daily lives and overall prosperity of citizens all over the world.
29. By working together to assure a safer, more secure and sustainable global aviation system, one based on the effective implementation of ICAO's global standards and policies and which leaves no country behind, we can help the nations of the world to achieve more efficient access to global markets, support expanded tourism and trade, and generate many other socio-economic benefits which will help eradicate poverty, create jobs and mobilize resources.
30. This seminar is an ideal platform for ICAO to share the knowledge and experiences of our data and analysis experts with you, and in closing today may I wish you all an enjoyable stay in Havana, and a very productive and successful Seminar.
31. Thank you.

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