



**Opening Remarks
by the Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
to the International Transport Forum Summit 2018
Plenary Session Panel on
“Safe and secure transport for the 21st century”**

(Leipzig, Germany 23 May 2018, 1400-1600 hours)

1. Aviation has been acutely focused on the safety of passengers and aircraft since the dawn of flight, and as our record in 2017 clearly attests to, we have become very good at it.
2. The air transport network moved more than 4.1 billion last year, on over 37 million flights, and without a single fatality.
3. Air transport was also one of the first major sectors of human activity to deal with terrorist threats and other modern security concerns, due mainly to the fact that the first terrorist groups in the world saw the hijacking of commercial aircraft as a means of optimizing their news exposure.
4. Since these acts of unlawful interference began to occur, in the 1970s, and especially subsequent to the renewed focus on aviation security which the 9/11 attacks occasioned, we have also become quite good at detecting and mitigating high risk passengers and cargo, and a wide range of new and emerging threats.
5. One of the key questions this panel is to address is: *“How can we successfully develop and sustain safe and secure transport systems?”*
6. From an aviation standpoint the response to that question has been very clear for many decades now, and in both the safety and security domains the answer is *cooperation*.
7. Safety has always been an incredible team effort in air transport, among aircraft designers, pilots, controllers, regulators, and many others, but we’ve also become more aware in recent years that global security threats also require a determined cooperative response.

8. This is the case whether we are discussing coordination among multiple agencies and providers, for instance after an airport landside attack, the development of accurate risk assessments, or when we seek to mitigate cyber and other threats through various forms of information sharing.
9. ICAO serves as the nexus for this much-needed global cooperation in air transport, importantly as it involves both private and public sector authorities and experts working towards harmonized goals, whether in the safety or the security area.
10. To-date, our community has established over 12,000 civil aviation standards through ICAO to help accomplish this harmonization, and these provisions are augmented in the Safety and Security domains by ICAO Global Plans which align regional and national targets.
11. And of course our overall aims for both of these key Strategic Objectives of civil aviation are further pursued through a wide range of programmes and assistance initiatives which we undertake to optimize the resources and capacities of all concerned.
12. It's my hope that some of these efforts will be broached further in our discussions ahead, but from the outset of this Panel I would simply like to stress that by working more closely together with our natural partners in our various transport sectors, we can realize some tremendous and sustainable results.
13. Thank you.