



**Remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu
for the closing ceremony of the
Civil Aviation Authority Senior and Middle Managers Training Course:
Managing Compliance with ICAO SARPs**

(Beijing, China 17 December 2018)

1. I am delighted to welcome you to this closing ceremony and the final session of ICAO's Civil Aviation Authority Senior and Middle Managers Training Course, focusing on Managing Compliance with ICAO SARPs.
2. And may I once again underscore our thanks and recognition of the Capital Airports Managing Academy, an ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence and the source of the excellent hospitality we've enjoyed here together.
3. The development and global delivery of this course has been realized through contributions of China from its South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund which aims to see developing countries aided by other developing nations.
4. I recall that I signed this agreement of cooperation with China alongside the "Belt and Road" Forum in May, 2017.
5. With the "Belt and Road" initiative, and China's international development assistance including the South-South Assistance Fund, China has been helping to lift nations out of poverty and foster their social and economic progress including improving transport connectivity and spurring tourism and trade.
6. These objectives are consistent with ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative, which seeks to optimize the socio-economic benefits of air transport for all States and Regions.

7. I therefore wish to express ICAO's deep gratitude to the Government of China for its generous and important contributions to our work, and to the needs of global aviation and developing States through this South-South mechanism.
8. China today is represented on the Council of ICAO as a Category 1 Member State, and we have been grateful for the experience and leadership it brings to discussions among our Governing body, as well as the many other constructive contributions it makes to our Organization.
9. Our Regional Sub-Office in Beijing, and the important regional flight planning role which it serves, is just one example of the scope and scale of its assistance to ICAO.
10. I would also like to recognize its very admirable air transport performance in recent years, even as it has been experiencing significant and rapid traffic growth.
11. The experience and best practices that China has gained through these achievements will be of tremendous value to many other ICAO Member States as they confront similar challenges in the coming decades.
12. Because of all of China's valuable support, ICAO has been able to provide scholarships to senior and middle managers from civil aviation authorities in all seven ICAO Regions, and from over 100 Member States.
13. It's my hope that other ICAO Member States will consider these outcomes and explore new means of pooling resources toward further air transport aims.
14. Aviation, after all, is not only growing very rapidly here in China, but in many other parts of the world as well.
15. To manage this growth, our sector must leverage new technologies and innovations so that the safety, security and capacity of civilian air travel are not adversely affected.
16. Change of this nature and scale, however, cannot take place successfully unless governments and the private sector invest in and assure sustainable aviation solutions.

17. If we ask ourselves why this training is so important today, we're drawn immediately to the challenges of skilled personnel shortages which ICAO recently addressed at our very successful Next Generation Aviation Professionals Summit in Shenzhen earlier this month.
18. Another important reason why this training is so important is the very direct link between ICAO-compliance in local operations, and the subsequent increase in destinations and connectivity which is then achieved, ultimately leading to sustainable economic growth.
19. This dynamic is critical to many States long-term objectives to achieve the UN SDGs now being pursued under *Agenda 2030*.
20. To help ICAO's member states to this end, it has been a personal priority of mine since I took office as Secretary General of ICAO to step up this Organization's partnerships and capacity building efforts.
21. Of the donation received from China's South-South Fund, half has been allocated to the development and delivery of this new and very important training course for CAA senior and middle managers.
22. The other half will now support ICAO's efforts to provide capacity-building assistance in African States, primarily through a variety of Technical Cooperation projects.
23. The professionals who have benefited from this latest training were specifically identified through ICAO's safety and security auditing and related analyses, and they were seen as being critical to the strategic and day-to-day decision-making which together ensure effective ICAO compliance.
24. ICAO will continue to assist our Member States in building the ICAO Standards compliant air transport system. As aviation plays an indispensable role in development and connectivity which is essential for the successful realization of the "Belt and Road" initiative, ICAO remains committed to achieve together in the collaborative Belt and Road journey.
25. I would like to commend Global Aviation Training (GAT) Office for how quickly and effectively it has developed this new course, while ensuring its widest-possible global access and benefit for our States.

26. I would also convey to all of you here my personal assurance that these funds have been allocated, managed, and monitored to ensure full accountability and effective results.
27. It is my profound hope that the effectiveness of our ICAO approach, and the concrete results it is leading to, will foster more and still stronger partnerships of this nature, through which we can achieve many more future regional and global aviation goals, together.
28. Thank you.