



**Opening remarks
by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the IAWA Connect Reception on:**

Gender Diversity: Transforming Words into Action

(ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, 26 September 2019)

Good evening everyone,

1. It's always such a pleasure for me to meet with you and celebrate the advances we're making today toward gender equality in international aviation.
2. And tonight we have even more to celebrate, given the record number of participants to ICAO's 40th Assembly and the highest number of Working Papers ever considered by an ICAO Assembly on gender issues were presented at A40 earlier today.
3. Throughout my professional career, and especially now as Secretary General of ICAO, I have always been a strong advocate for gender equality and the equal participation of both women and men; whether in the decision-making process or any other aspects of our professional and social lives.

And from a similar standpoint, all of us together as women in the aviation sector, individually and collectively, have a responsibility to do all we can so that both women and men can participate and realize their full potential.

4. In 2016, the ICAO Assembly endorsed Resolution A39-30 and the ICAO Gender Equality Programme, which sought to begin addressing this objective by encouraging greater promotion of the participation of women in the global aviation sector.

5. ICAO then established the Gender Equality Implementation Plan to address this call, and to generate much needed awareness in governments and industry over the 2017-2020 timeframe.
6. Last year, the inaugural Global Aviation Gender Summit took place in Cape Town, South Africa, and I'm sure that some of you here will have attended it.
7. This was a joint initiative between the South African Civil Aviation Authority and ICAO, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and UN Women.
8. The objective of the Summit was to discuss the challenges faced by women in aviation, in alignment with the ICAO Assembly Resolution and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Number 5, which is to achieve *Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls*.
9. A very unique feature of the Summit was the diversity of attendees.
10. There was representation from a broad range of disciplines, including private sector and industry leaders, State and government representatives, academia, aviation, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as gender experts.
11. The Summit attracted over 500 participants with an additional 2,000+ watching the livestream.
12. The Summit concluded with a roadmap of concrete actions aimed at fast-tracking gender equality in the aviation industry.
13. It also resolved that the road map should subsequently be endorsed by the 40th Session of the Assembly, and it is on our agendas here this week and should be formalized very shortly.
14. It's my hope that this latest progress helps reassure you all that ICAO is committed to continuing its global efforts in the area of gender and aviation.

15. And I'm also very pleased to report to you here this evening that we have recently welcomed the keen interest of the Directorate General of the Civil Aviation of Spain to host the second Global Aviation Gender Summit in 2020.
16. This second Summit will build on the ICAO Gender Equality Programme as well as the outcomes of the first Summit, and we hope to see many of you there supporting this growing movement and helping us to maintain the clear momentum now established toward these priorities.
17. By working as one aviation community, together we can advance gender equality and gender mainstreaming in aviation through the establishment of new concrete action plans and even bolder targets.
18. I am personally engaged and fully committed to supporting these goals, and I thank you all so much for your attendance and support here this evening to help keep this process on track.
19. Thank you.