

Address by the Secretary General of ICAO

Mr. Raymond Benjamin

to the

LXXXI Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Latin American

Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC)

(Cartagena de Indias, 27-28 July 2011)

1. Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to join you for this Executive Meeting of LACAC and to share a few thoughts on the excellent relationship between our two Organizations.
2. My goal is quite clear – I want to do all I can to promote cooperation between ICAO and yourselves on issues of mutual interest, for the enhanced efficiency of the air transport system throughout Latin America.
3. Since taking office as Secretary General in August 2009, one of my priorities has been to significantly improve communications, coordination and information-sharing between Headquarters and our Regional Offices – to instil a “One ICAO” mindset if you will in providing the assistance you require to meet your respective goals and aspirations.

4. One way has been to give my Regional Directors greater autonomy and resources. They now have more flexibility and decision-making capabilities in their interactions with you and your colleagues. As far as I am concerned, they know best what your concerns and challenges are. I count on them for guidance and I make sure they have the means to follow through on what we agree to together.
5. A good example is their involvement in the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) we signed with LACAC and other regional aviation bodies at the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly last fall. The Regional Directors of the Lima and Mexico Offices have been very active in preparing action plans to ensure the MOC leads to concrete and lasting results.
6. This is already the case in a number of areas.
7. For example, an ICAO Seminar on Action Plans by States to reduce CO₂ emissions was successfully held in Mexico City in May 2011, with the involvement of LACAC.
8. The first ICAO/LACAC AVSEC/FAL Regional Group meeting and seminar also took place in May 2011.
9. LACAC participated in the RASG-PA Second Annual Aviation Safety Summit for Pan America in June in Mexico City.

10. LACAC has confirmed its support and coordination for an ICAO Seminar on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to be held at the Lima Office during the second quarter of 2012.
11. LACAC continues to fully support the Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP) work for implementation among SRVSOP Members States of a harmonized rules and procedures environment.
12. What is most important for me is that all of these events as well as others programmed by LACAC are coordinated with the ICAO Regional Offices in Lima and Mexico. This avoids duplication of efforts and waste of time and resources, while at the same time, increasing the relevance of the initiatives.
13. I want to thank you for your collaboration in achieving these results, which form the basis for expanding our relationship in other areas of mutual concern.
