



**Draft Opening remarks by the President of the Council of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the First Meeting of the 213th Session
of the Air Navigation Commission**

(Montreal, 21 January 2020)

While it is my pleasure to address you for the first time as President of the Council, it is on a sombre note that we start the new triennium as we mourn the loss of the passengers and crew of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752.

Minute of silence...

I am not the only new President here. Mr. Nabil Naoumi, I congratulate you on becoming President of the Air Navigation Commission and wish you much success in leading this esteemed body.

I welcome your new Commissioners: Mr. Frederic Fachinan, nominated by Canada; Mr. Charles Kanga, nominated by Cote d'Ivoire; and Mr. Thierry Liabastres, nominated by France; as well as Mr. Ismael Pacheco, nominated by Spain, who is returning to the ANC Chamber.

I look forward to working closely with the Air Navigation Commission and to receiving its valuable technical advice that the Council has relied upon for decades. I note that the Council's work programme for this session includes many ANC reports proposing Annex amendments for adoption, all of which have undergone a rigorous process of development, preliminary review, consultation and final review of Standards and Recommended Practices. The Commission's role in this process — providing independent quality assurance during the various review phases for new and amended SARPs — is important and appreciated.

Of importance to the entire organization will be the Review of Assembly resolutions and decisions. The Council review of the report will benefit from an ANC oral report on those subjects within its purview.

The focus now is on the path set for the next triennium. Much of the technical work for the organization was identified at the Thirteenth Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/13) and subsequently included in the budget adopted at the Assembly. There remain, however, items put forward at AN-Conf/13 and at the Assembly that are not in the budget.

In this respect, and recalling one of the recommendations from the review of the ICAO Standard setting process, in the Council we will rely on the ANC's technical advice on a prioritization, classification or categorization of SARPs proposals according to the urgency and needs of Member States.

I am aware that the Commission and the Secretariat are working diligently on this matter, and I look forward to an update on the progress of that work.

Finally, I recall that the former Council President, Dr. Aliu, in his last remarks to the Commission at the start of the 212th Session, encouraged you to progress several issues and I also encourage you to continue those efforts:

- Investigating alternative methods for SARPs Development (including considering direct industry input) without compromising the decision-making role of our States;
- Recommending to Council better processes and procedures for Level 2 Meetings, and for the Technical Commission of the Assembly to make them more accessible to States; and,
- Monitoring developments in cyber resilience and the operational implementation of the ICAO Trust Framework.

2020 begins a new triennium with many new challenges but also new opportunities.

Together we can address these for the benefit of all aviation. I wish you well in your discussions in the busy weeks ahead.