



**Opening Remarks by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the ICAO Symposium on Non-CO₂ Aviation Emissions**

(ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, 16 September 2024)

*Distinguished guests,
Esteemed colleagues,
and friends,*

Welcome to the ICAO Symposium on Non-CO₂ Aviation Emissions. We stand at a critical crossroads in our collective journey towards sustainable aviation.

The challenge before us is complex and multifaceted. The effects of non-CO₂ emissions, from contrails to nitrogen oxides, and the role they play in aviation's environmental impact are not as well understood or addressed as those of CO₂ emissions. This symposium aims to address this critical gap in our approach to sustainable aviation.

Our mission over these next few days is threefold: to deepen our scientific understanding, to explore innovative solutions, and to forge the partnerships necessary to progress on the topic of non-CO₂ aviation emissions. The diversity of expertise represented in this room - from atmospheric scientists to aerospace engineers, from policymakers to airline operators - is our greatest asset in this endeavor.

The scientific community has made remarkable strides in recent years, enhancing our understanding of non-CO₂ emissions. However, significant uncertainties remain. This symposium will provide a unique platform for knowledge exchange, where cutting-edge research meets practical industry experience. Together, we will work to bridge these knowledge gaps. Our aim is to chart a course for a global harmonized approach to both the scientific understanding of non-CO₂ emissions and the development of potential policies in the coming years.

Innovation is essential to our industry. As we explore mitigation strategies, we must harness the full potential of technological advancements, operational improvements and alternative fuels. From novel engine designs to optimized flight paths, from sustainable aviation fuels to cleaner energy sources, every avenue must be explored. Accordingly, this symposium will showcase promising initiatives and spark discussions on the potential of these approaches to reduce non-CO₂ emissions.

Yet, scientific knowledge and technological innovation alone are not enough. The crucial aspect of this gathering lies in its potential to foster collaboration. The challenges we face transcend borders and sectors. Our response must do the same. This symposium will facilitate dialogue between

stakeholders who might not otherwise cross paths, creating opportunities for unexpected synergies and important partnerships.

As we engage in discussions about cutting-edge research, monitoring strategies, and potential mitigation measures, I urge you to think beyond your individual roles. Consider how your expertise can complement that of others. Reflect on how your challenges might be solved by someone else's innovations. Contemplate how your insights could inform policy decisions. By broadening our perspectives, we can enhance our collective approach to research, monitoring, and developing effective solutions.

The high-level panels scheduled throughout this symposium will provide a platform for integrating diverse perspectives. These sessions will bring together voices from across the aviation ecosystem to discuss how we can align scientific understanding, technological capabilities, operational realities, and policy frameworks.

As we move forward, let us be guided by three core principles: scientific rigor, global cooperation, and unwavering commitment to sustainability. These principles will support our efforts to understand and address non-CO₂ emissions, just as they have in our work on noise reduction, local air quality and carbon mitigation.

I am grateful to each of you for your participation. Your presence here demonstrates the global aviation community's commitment to environmental stewardship. Together, we will navigate the challenges ahead, seize the opportunities for innovation, and ensure that aviation continues to connect the world while respecting our planet's boundaries.

I wish you all a productive and enlightening symposium. Thank you.