



**Opening address by
the Council President of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
to the ICAO Security Week Ministerial Segment**

(Muscat, Oman, 11 December 2024)

*Your Excellencies, Ministers, Vice Ministers, and
Dear Directors General,*

It is a pleasure and honour again to welcome you to ICAO Security Week 2024, here in Oman, and to thank you for committing your valuable time to ensure the success of this important event.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman; the Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technology, His Excellency Eng. Said Hamood Al Maawali; the President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Oman, his Excellency Eng. Naif Ali Hamad Al Abri, for their warm hospitality.

This is a special year for ICAO. We not only celebrating the organization's 80th Anniversary, but we are also celebrating 50 years of preventing and suppressing acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation globally through Annex 17 – Aviation Security. These celebrations give us the opportunity to reflect on our important achievements over the past 5 decades which have been critical to global security.

Whilst we celebrate our successes, we must also remember that aviation remains an attractive target for bad actors.

So, we cannot be complacent, we must continue to innovate and evolve to address existing and emerging threats. That is why we have invited you here today, to reaffirm your commitment to enhancing aviation security and cybersecurity, and to foster global cooperation in protecting our critical infrastructure.

With your dedication to support the protection and resilience of the aviation sector, our world can stay connected, and aviation is able to play its natural role as a catalyst for socio-economic development of nations. This also ensures the sector is adequately prioritised and appropriately resourced.

So, alongside your adoption of the Muscat Declaration we ask you to: ratify the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft – both known as the Beijing Instruments as they constitute a solid foundation for international cooperation to deter and prosecute acts of unlawful interference to civil aviation, including cyber-attacks. We also ask you to increase your cooperation with each other while expand your network beyond your 'trusted few'; and

commit to reaching or surpassing 75% Effective Implementation of aviation security Standards by 2033 as set out in the Second Edition of the Global Aviation Security Plan.

I am asking this of you as we begin our preparations for the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly to be held in Montréal next year. We need to demonstrate to the world that we collectively pursue the highest levels of aviation security, especially during the unpredictable and unstable times we are experiencing today, and while keeping in mind that passenger air traffic is forecast to grow from 4.5 billion passengers this year to 12.4 billions by 2050.

Before I conclude, I would like to emphasize that, this year, ICAO has put a great focus on empowering the next generation of aviation professionals, and bridging the gender gap in aviation in general, and in aviation security in particular. This constitutes part of the organization's efforts to promote aviation security as a profession of choice, that provides a fulfilling and empowering career in this discipline, while making a real difference in protecting lives and property.

In concluding, I would like to express ICAO's deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions we've received from many States, both financial and in-kind, and for your support to the organization's work through lending us your experts' time to contribute to the global joint work of the organization.

I look forward to the discussion of the Ministerial declaration today.

Thank you.

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