



Remarks of

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to the opening session of the

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Mr President, Distinguished Ministers, ICAO Council, Secretariat and colleagues

It is a pleasure to be with you here in the United Arab Emirates for this important meeting.

As we approached our historic agreement of net zero carbon by 2050 at last year's ICAO Assembly, much work was done to identify the ways in which we can get there. Clearly, SAF is the most important element we need to deal with now. It will require some major heavy lifting over the coming 26 years to ensure we can move to low carbon energy.

In our working papers we have identified how industry views that transition. We will explore these over the coming days.

But, put simply, we will need to shift almost completely away from fossil fuels by mid-Century if we are to live up to our net zero promise.

Nobody is underestimating the challenge. The good news is that it can be done. And that the transition will provide opportunities for new green energy industries and jobs in countries all over the world. Over 50 airlines have committed to at least 5% of their fuel being SAF by 2030 – these make up over 40% of global traffic and are from every region on earth with the Asia-Pacific airlines the latest to commit.

More and more SAF projects are being initiated all the time – the recently updated CAEP analysis shows 90 additional announcements since January alone.

This is very encouraging momentum, but we need more and faster and spread this good work to other parts of the world.

An ICAO Vision adopted here this week, alongside a robust and purposeful Global Framework of implementation will help make that happen. It will also show how aviation can get things done – and be an important signal to the COP28 meeting taking place just down the road in 10 days' time.

We will not get many chances at this. Every year of delay will make the transition harder. The decisions we take must be robust and based on the best analysis. But if we simply ask for more study and more time we will find ourselves in 2049 with nothing achieved.

Leaders are those who don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good and are willing to adapt to changing circumstances. We all need to be those leaders now.

I think it is fitting that we are here in Dubai, inextricably linked with both energy and transition. We are often daunted by the task ahead of us when we look at aviation's decarbonisation pathway and yet you only need look outside this conference venue for evidence of what can be achieved in 26 years when humans put their mind to it.

But it can also tell another story. The average daily temperature at Dubai International Airport in August 1997 was 34°C. This year, that same average was 37.8°C. Individual years don't tell us the story by themselves, but the trend lines do. And those trends are going the wrong way.

Industry colleagues are here with a big delegation because we know how important this is to get right with a result based on science and equity. We are keen to come out of CAAF/3 with a strong and united voice of aviation to the energy and finance community: **help us fly net zero by 2050.**

Thank you.