



**Closing Remarks by the Secretary General of ICAO,
Mr. Raymond Benjamin,
to the ICAO Global Aviation Cooperation Symposium (GACS)**

(ICAO HQ, Montréal, 3 October 2014)

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning,

1. The first-ever Global Aviation Cooperation Symposium has focused discussions around the theme of “Building cooperation for the future of Civil Aviation”. Its four main goals were:
 - To Promote ICAO SARPS and the role and resources of its Technical Cooperation Programme;
 - Assist States to identify needs and comprehensive solutions to common deficiencies found in ICAO audits;
 - Share common aviation challenges and the use of best practices for future of civil aviation; and
 - Strengthen institutional and cross-industry relationships.

2. I believe this Symposium fully achieved these goals. It served as an ideal platform for participants to have an open dialogue and discuss emerging and common issues, sharing knowledge and best practices, across the full spectrum of civil aviation.

3. The Symposium has demonstrated that ICAO, through its technical Cooperation Programme, is an ideal avenue for global cooperation in civil aviation. ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau can play an even stronger leadership role in bringing all partners and industry stakeholders together towards assisting Member States improve their civil aviation systems, as was shown by the diverse discussions amongst participants, speakers and other partners that contributed to the speaker sessions.
4. Gains made today as well as improvements to be made tomorrow will require a continued and sustained investment and capacity building for the future generations to ensure a safe and secure air transport industry.
5. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers, panelist, moderators and their representing organizations. Your contribution to this Symposium is well appreciated and recognized.
6. Thank you also to the organizers of this event. It is proved that hard work and enthusiasm always lead to good results.
7. Thank you to the exhibitors, and sponsors. Your participation and support was very important for the success of the Symposium.

8. Finally and most important of all, thanks to you, the participants. Your contribution to the discussions have enriched the outcome of this international Symposium.
9. What do we as ICAO take as a lesson learned? I believe that we need to strengthen our role and leadership to help promote and facilitate cooperation amongst all of the civil aviation and air transport industry stakeholders.
10. Given the very positive outcome of this Symposium and the excellent response from speakers, participants, and exhibitors, I can conclude that a second symposium be organized in the not too distant future, whether in Montreal or in another corner of the world.
11. Congratulations to TCB for organizing this Symposium and thank you very much to all of you. I wish you a safe return to your countries.