

Speech for ICAO Secretary General
Closing of Global Aviation and Aerospace Skills Taskforce
1st May 2025 at 12:00 noon,
Location: ACI's office on 15th floor of Place Victoria

1. It is a great pleasure to join you this afternoon at the conclusion of this third meeting of the Global Aviation and Aerospace Skills Taskforce (GAAST).
2. Montreal is the home of international civil aviation and I am especially pleased that you have appropriately chosen—to gather here for your important discussions.
3. The issues you have addressed over the past days are indeed at the very heart of our industry's future. This is reflected clearly in the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) new long-term Strategic Plan 2026 – 2050.
4. As demand for air transport and aerospace capabilities continues to grow, we are facing an unprecedented need to attract, develop, and retain a diverse and capable workforce. Skills shortages therefore present a serious and direct challenge to the sustainable growth, safety, and resilience of global civil aviation.
5. We also need new talent in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomy.
6. In large part, it is about attracting young people to the exciting and dynamic careers offered by aviation.
7. I want to commend the taskforce for your leadership and the collaborative spirit you have fostered in response. You are demonstrating exactly what success will require.
8. At ICAO, we are also proud to play a central role in this effort. Through our Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Programme (NGAP) and related capacity-building initiatives, we continue to support States in sharing best practices, developing strategies, and building capabilities to strengthen

the global aviation workforce. The NGAP programme also has close synergies with our Gender Equality Programme.

9. I warmly welcome the intention of the taskforce to collaborate with the NGAP programme. Your efforts to establish a global platform for information sharing will be instrumental in supporting workforce development across all regions.
10. I look forward to learning more about the outcomes of your meeting and the progress you are driving, especially as we prepare for the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly in September this year.
11. I also hope to see many of you at the upcoming Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Summit to be held in Durban, South Africa, in August this year, where we will continue this dialogue.
12. Thank you once again for your commitment, your energy, and your collaboration. I wish you all safe and pleasant journeys home.
13. Thank you.