



**First Workshop on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
for United Nations (UN) Missions
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
Tuesday 30 April 2025**

Pre-recorded on 24 April 2025

1. *Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening, ladies and gentlemen,*
2. It is my pleasure and honour to address you today. The subject of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) supporting United Nations operations in humanitarian aid, disaster response, peacekeeping, and the rule of law is absolutely critical.
3. The applications of UAS are remarkable. They include aerial photography and videography, complex monitoring and mapping via advanced sensors, and aid delivery to remote communities. Their versatility directly supports progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
4. As these activities involve the operation of aircraft, regardless of their size or complexity, they are expected to comply with civil aviation regulations.
5. This is why ICAO has partnered with the World Food Programme, the UN Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), and other entities of the United Nations system to develop harmonized and streamlined unmanned aviation frameworks.
6. As the UN's specialized aviation agency, ICAO is committed to enabling safe, secure, and efficient UAS operations.
7. That is why I strongly support the 'Declaration by the Organizations of the United Nations System on The Development of Harmonized Unmanned Aviation Frameworks in Support of Their

Respective Mandates, Missions and Objectives'. This document marks the way forward for reinforced cooperation between our organizations.

8. To transform this commitment into tangible action, we have established the UN Unmanned Aviation Coordination Forum. This week's technical workshop is our first initiative under this new forum. It will facilitate crucial expertise and knowledge-sharing towards developing these harmonized frameworks.
9. I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Atul Khare of UNDOS and Executive Director Cindy Hensley McCain of the World Food Programme most sincerely for their unwavering commitment to this collaborative effort.
10. Thank you very much.