



**Closing Remarks by the
Secretary General of the
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
to the ICAO Aviation Climate Week**

Wednesday, 4 June 2025

1. Good afternoon, everyone. As we reach the end of this first ICAO Aviation Climate Week, I would like to sincerely thank you all. It has been an honour to welcome so many dedicated professionals, both here with us at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal and participating online from around the world.
2. This week has brought together a truly global community: governments, industry leaders, financial institutions, researchers, and civil society organizations. You are all united by a shared and vitally important goal - to increase both the pace and scale of climate action in international aviation.
3. To each speaker, moderator, and participant: you have my heartfelt gratitude. You've shared valuable insights, brought forward practical solutions, and engaged thoughtfully throughout this week.
4. This global stocktaking of aviation sustainability initiatives represents a crucial step forward. Together, we've addressed concrete environmental challenges facing international air transport and identified specific paths for ICAO and our partners to advance.
5. Central to our discussions was aviation's commitment to decarbonization by 2050.
6. This ambitious goal will be achieved through:
 - deploying innovative technologies
 - implementing more efficient operations
 - scaling up sustainable aviation fuels
 - improving access to financing
 - reducing dependence on fossil fuels

- and accelerating the transition to other cleaner energies
7. We also discussed key environmental priorities including the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) implementation, non-CO2 aviation emissions, the circular economy, and building resilience to climate change.
 8. Importantly, our discussions were enriched by perspectives from vulnerable Small Island Developing States, early-stage innovators, and those working to bring cleaner aviation energy to developing regions.
 9. This commitment to climate action in aviation is real, global, and growing. We see the evidence in concrete pledges, increased investments, and new collaborative initiatives presented throughout the week.
 10. However, the scale of the decarbonization challenge remains immense. The science is clear that we must accelerate implementation now - not tomorrow.
 11. To address this urgency, ICAO has established a comprehensive approach. At its foundation is our Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 - a commitment we are determined to fulfill together.
 12. Supporting this goal is the Global Framework for Aviation Cleaner Energies adopted at Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3). This Framework provides the shared direction needed to align our collective efforts.
 13. We are also providing practical tools to translate these commitments into tangible results. The ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) programme delivers implementation support, while the ICAO Finvest Hub will connect projects with climate finance solutions. These platforms are designed to help achieve our 2030 Vision for Sustainable Aviation Fuels, Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels, and cleaner energy alternatives.
 14. Through this coordinated strategy - from long-term goals to frameworks to implementation tools - ICAO is supporting States and industry partners in making sustainable aviation a reality.

15. I want to express my appreciation to all our speakers and the ICAO Secretariat team, including everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this week so successful.
16. Looking forward, all the valuable insights and commitments we have shared will directly inform the upcoming 42nd Assembly in September, where we must translate this momentum into concrete decisions.
17. Climate change is not a distant threat. It is happening right now - affecting our infrastructure, passengers, supply chains, and communities worldwide. To create a fair transition, our response must be effective, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.
18. As we gather on the eve of World Environment Day, I am proud to announce the launch of the *ICAO Environmental Report 2025, Skyward Action: Realizing Aviation's Sustainable Future*, highlighting global progress and innovation in aviation environmental sustainability.
19. This new edition will also inform the 42nd Session of the Assembly and is featuring 16 chapters and 118 articles that showcase global progress across all key environmental topics in aviation. From noise and emissions to cleaner energies, implementation support, financing, circular economy, climate adaptation, and biodiversity, this comprehensive report highlights the sector's commitment to a sustainable future. I thank all contributors and invite you to discover the report on the ICAO Website.
20. World Environment Day is a timely reminder that our efforts this week are part of a much larger global movement to protect the environment. While most of the focus in the Aviation Climate Week has been on CO₂ emissions, this year's World Environment Day focuses on plastic pollution which is present everywhere, from the Mariana Trench (deepest ocean point) to Mount Everest (highest mountain peak). The aviation sector is not exempted, given the impact of its operations and the consequences of plastic pollution on aviation-related activities, such as tourism. The aviation sector stands ready to continue to contribute to the global effort towards beating plastic pollution. The progress, partnerships, and shared commitments forged here will carry forward as the world marks this important day tomorrow. Let us leave this week inspired to turn our collective ambition into sustained action, for aviation and for the planet.
21. Finally, I invite you to participate in one final activity. Please open Slido and share just one word that represents your vision for sustainable aviation - or what you believe will be most crucial in building that future. These words will shape our collective vision for the future.

22. Let us build on this week to create a living platform where knowledge is shared, progress is tracked, and partnerships are forged. ICAO needs you, whether you represent a State, an international organization, a company, a research institution, or an NGO. We need your energy. We need your expertise. And we need your continued commitment.
23. The path ahead is challenging, but I leave today with renewed confidence that together, we will transform international aviation for a sustainable future. Thank you all. We look forward to continuing this vital work together.
24. I cannot however leave the stage today without sharing a few personal words. Today marks a very special and emotional moment for all of us at ICAO, as we gather for what will be Jane Hupe's final Climate Week and Stocktaking as part of the ICAO Secretariat.
25. As you all know, Jane has dedicated decades of her life to ICAO's environmental programme, shaping not only our policies and goals — but the very culture of ambition, integrity, and collaboration that defines our work in sustainability today.
26. She has been a mentor, a driving force, and above all, a tireless advocate for aviation's role in global climate action. Her knowledge, passion, and humanity have left a lasting imprint on this Organization and on all of us who have had the privilege to work alongside her.
27. Jane, your leadership has inspired generations of experts and decision-makers across the globe. While this may be your final ICAO Climate Week in an official role, your impact will continue to be felt in every stride we make toward a more sustainable future.
28. On behalf of ICAO and its Member States, I offer you our deepest gratitude, our highest respect, and our warmest wishes for the journey ahead. Thank you, Jane.