

REMARKS OF ICAO SG – DESIGNATE, MR. JUAN CARLOS SALAZAR

TO ECAC 39 PLENARY SESSION - JULY 12, 2021

- *President of the Council of ICAO, Mr. Salvatore Sciacitano*
- *President of ECAC, Ms Ingrid Cherfils*
- *Director General for Mobility and Air Transport of the European Commission, Mr. Enrik Hololei*
- *Directors of other regional civil aviation organizations and Directors General of Civil Aviation*
- *Dear Colleagues and friends:*

*I would like to thank ECAC President for inviting me to address **the 39th Plenary triennial Session – ECAC-39**, where I can meet and greet, although virtually these days, colleagues and friends that I have had the privilege to know for many years. During its 66 years of existence, ECAC has made strong contributions to the development of the EU aviation system. Is important to mention that during his work at ECAC, the President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacitano contributed and at the same time got a profound understanding of regional organizations, which has been key to lead the ICAO Council and facilitate consensus.*

As Secretary General-designated, allow me first to express my recognition for the support and trust received from ECAC Member States during my election. I am truly humbled by the overwhelming vote of confidence and promise to work with every Member State to build the necessary trust and synergies that will allow us to dedicate time, resources, and the capacity of our organizations for aviation related matters, including the pressing priority to achieve a quick recovery of international Civil Aviation.

*Harmonious work among ECAC and ICAO is necessary for our organizations to focus on the strategic priorities for the benefit of our Member States. **We don't have the privilege to work in "silos"**. Our historic challenge (and opportunity) is to demonstrate that all aviation industry stakeholders, together with ECAC, ICAO and its member states, will work together as one team to **restore confidence** in the international civil aviation system from the general public, governments, and health authorities throughout the world and reinstate commonly acceptable requirements to facilitate safe, secure and efficient international air travel.*

One of the mechanisms that can be utilized to enhance our working arrangements, is to organize regular meetings to discuss and coordinate upcoming activities in the region, avoiding duplication and enhancing potential synergies. Historically ICAO has been the international forum to bring harmonization and consensus to international civil aviation. Europe has an undeniable leadership in specific areas such as the unification of its air transport market, environmental protection, and health protocols and vaccination and all of those are central to build aviation back and better.

I will encourage a high level coordination and the organization of joint events for the benefit of the States of the region to avoid duplication and to focus valuable resources in advancing our priorities. Aligned with this, a joint event on Environment has been organized in June 2021.

Our Member States and industry stakeholders have been counting on ICAO's leadership in developing globally harmonized recommendations and guidance to help restart and recovery of the aviation industry, as well as to assist States to implement these recommendations, which is a tremendous challenge we all have in moving forward. European States have been leading members of CART, allowing other states to benefit from EU experience and knowledge. Vaccination is progressing well in Europe and I hope that you will continue to lead the way, opening international air travel and leading the way for the quick recovery of international air connectivity.

*At this point I would like to mention that more than two decades ago ICAO **received a mandate on emission reductions for international civil aviation**. The Organization has adopted programs, goals and tools to that end. However between 2021 and 2024 the Organization, its member states and all **stakeholders shall deliver substantive progress on emission reductions from international aviation in order to confirm its leadership and relevance concerning this strategic objective**. After COVID 19, we have an opportunity to reimagine and build a better civil aviation system that is sustainable.*

The High-Level Conference on Covid (HLCC) provide us with the much-needed platform to discuss the many challenges and opportunities to “re-imagine and make better” a post-covid 19 civil aviation sector. I will urge ECAC Member States to confirm High Level participation as soon as possible, and to continue to contribute ideas for the preparation of the outcomes of the HLCC. We would be very interested to hear European perspective on what such outcomes are required to have a very successful HLCC.

Mr. President of the Council of ICAO, Mme President of ECAC, DG Mobility, DGCA's of Members States of ECAC and colleagues, COVID-19 has impacted heavily on economies and in the global aviation sector. In the current situation, where States decide on competing policy and spending priorities among various sectors, we need to underscore to all governments the key contributions of civil aviation and the need to support it. My invitation today is that our two organizations continue to seek ways to strengthen cooperation and demonstrate Member States that we will continue to provide guidance and assistance to tackle imminent and future challenges faced by International and regional civil aviation.