

**Statement by Kevin Shum, Director General, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore at the ECAC 39<sup>th</sup> Plenary (Triennial) Session**

Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the ICAO Council,

Mr Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General-elect of the ICAO,

Mr Alessio Quaranta, President of the ECAC,


Ms Patricia Reverdy, Executive Secretary of the ECAC,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Colleagues,

- A very good afternoon to all. I would like to thank the European Civil Aviation Conference for inviting Singapore to attend your 39<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session.

**Relationship between CAAS and ECAC**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about immense challenges to international civil aviation.
- We are heartened that, even in the midst of the pandemic, the close relations and cooperation between ECAC and Singapore have deepened. ECAC and CAAS have a longstanding friendship, with many shared experiences and collaboration for the mutual benefit of our aviation sectors.
- The ECAC-CAAS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on civil aviation training is an example of our enduring partnership. I believe the MOU will play an important role in building the next generation of aviation leaders



and deepen information sharing between our organisations on emerging issues.


- We appreciate ECAC Member States' continued interest in our training programmes, and ECAC's strong support in coordinating the participation of ECAC Member States.

### Working Together on Aviation Recovery

- Going forward, I believe that there is a window for us, as international civil aviation authorities and organisations, to leverage our partnership and find ways to facilitate the recovery and the resumption of air travel.
- We can build on the extensive collaboration to do this. In particular, ECAC and Singapore have been cooperating extensively on this through ICAO, on the Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART).
- The coming ICAO High Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC) in October will be an opportunity that we must seize. It is only through international collaboration that we will be able to support the recovery of air travel. We need to encourage states to work more closely together, and if possible, harmonise norms, procedures and requirements for safe travel.

### Working Together on other Core Aviation Objectives

- We also do well to recall that COVID-19, for all its very real pain, is temporary. We will overcome COVID-19.
- We must continue to focus on the deep-seated and long-term issues that face aviation. In particular, we must do more to build a sustainable future for aviation. Here too, we have been working closely with ECAC States—we




are after all co-architects of CORSIA. Let me at this stage reaffirm our commitment to work together with ECAC to ensure that aviation is sustainable, and does its part to mitigate climate change.

- Other areas that we hope to work together with ECAC are in improving aviation security, and facilitating the development and operation of unmanned aircraft systems. We look forward to opportunities to collaborate with ECAC and ECAC Member States to advance these goals.
- Safety and ATM are also important priorities for us. We value our cooperation with EASA and EUROCONTROL in this regard. Our collaboration demonstrates the trust we have in each other's aviation systems. We will continue to work together with Europe to promote safety and ATM.
- We hope to maintain and strengthen the excellent relations in aviation between Europe and Singapore.

### New Leadership

- The Plenary today elected the new Coordinating Committee. On behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Alessio Quaranta and his team. We are confident that you will have a successful tenure. You can count on our support. We look forward to enhancing our partnership with you and your new Committee.
- Here, I would like to express my personal thanks to Ms Ingrid Cherfils, whose professionalism and passion for the development of international civil aviation continues to inspire me. Ingrid, it is my privilege to have known and worked with a like-minded, trusted friend. I wish you the very best in your future endeavors and look forward to deeper cooperation between Sweden and Singapore in the development of civil aviation.

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- To my friends and colleagues in ECAC, it is my hope that we will be able to meet in person one day soon, perhaps at the Singapore Airshow next year, if not sooner, so that we can exchange experiences and renew friendships.
  - Congratulations on a successful 39<sup>th</sup> ECAC Plenary Session. Thank you for the invitation to the 39<sup>th</sup> ECAC Plenary Session. It has been my honour and pleasure to be here.