

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Mr. President,
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to be here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend this Third Conference on Financing for Development and make a statement on behalf of Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Raymond Benjamin and Secretary General Designate, Dr. Fang Liu.

The preamble of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* signed in Chicago in 1944 recognizes that the development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world.

Indeed, a safe and reliable air transport system helps improve quality of life, spreads different cultural knowledge, delivers better services to the public, as well as enhances access to remote and less-developed areas. Such a system is a catalyst for economic and social development. In 2014, aviation supported 8.5 million jobs and its direct economic impact reached approximately USD 700 billion. Over 1.1 billion tourists crossed international borders, over half of who travelled by air to their destinations and up to 80 per cent of visitors to certain small island states. Air freight constitutes 34.6 per cent of world trade by value despite only 0.5 per cent by volume.

Going forward, the international community must address the challenges of rapidly-expanding air traffic, which will double by 2030. As a UN Specialized Agency, ICAO is keen to support the initiatives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will serve as a facilitator for the implementation of SDGs.

Cognizant of the challenges and opportunities that SDGs pose for the aviation community, it is critical that **no country is left behind** to improve connectivity, bolster competitiveness, and strengthen air transport's role as a foundation for the future.

In collaboration with States and international partners and consistent with the SDGs and global vision for aviation, ICAO seeks to further improve connectivity to sustainable tourism development, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). ICAO also focuses more on the effective implementation in the aviation infrastructure development, which will provide inclusive and productive employment, as well as serve as the basis for further sustainable growth.

In this regard, ICAO has proposed global indicators under **SDG Goal 8, Target 8.9** and **SDG Goal 9, Target 9.1** through the UN Statistical Commission. The proposed global indicators could potentially unlock some implementation financing for the aviation sector in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

ICAO continues to contribute to establishing a coherent and harmonized global regulatory framework for air transport operation; enhance global civil aviation safety and security; increase the capacity and improve the efficiency of aviation infrastructure; facilitate the movement of people and goods by air; and maximize aviation's contribution to economic development while at the same time minimizing the adverse environmental effects of civil aviation activities.

I thank you for your attention.