



## ICAO Secretary General emphasizes need for commitment and action at Ibero-American Climate Change Symposium

For immediate release

**Montréal, 21 July 2017** – Stressing that this is a very important moment for our planet and for the air transport sector, ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu emphasized this week to the participants of the week-long *Ibero-American Symposium on Environment, Civil Aviation and Climate Change*, that “it is a time for bold commitments and determined efforts supporting our shared goal of eliminating the threats now posed by accelerating global warming.”

The important regional environment event attracted high-level officials and expert participants from North and Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Africa to Guatemala City, Guatemala, where Dr. Liu highlighted ICAO’s ongoing work on a variety of programmes and priorities aimed at mitigating the carbon and other emissions impacts from international flight operations.

The majority of her remarks focused on the historic adoption by world governments last October during the 39th ICAO Assembly of the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, or ‘CORSIA’, and updated them on the comprehensive work now being undertaken through ICAO to address CORSIA’s coming global roll-out – a world first for any major global industry sector.

“ICAO and its Member States, with close cooperation from our industry colleagues and other stakeholders, will continue to lead the sector-wide efforts to address the environmental impacts of international aviation, including the CORSIA’s successful implementation,” Secretary General Liu confirmed. “To date, 71 States representing 87.7 per cent of international air traffic have already announced their voluntary participation in CORSIA as of its pilot phase in 2021,” she added, recognizing the admirable and proactive local CORSIA commitments on behalf of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica.

While in Guatemala, Secretary General Liu met with its Vice-President, Mr. Jafeth Cabrera Franco, Guatemala’s Minister of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing, Mr. Aldo Estuardo García Morales, its Director General of Civil Aviation, Mr. Carlos Fernando Velásquez Monge, and other key senior government officials. Throughout she was accompanied by Mr. Melvin Cintron, the Regional Director of the ICAO North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office, and the Symposium benefited from the inputs and calls to action by Ms. Jane Hupe, Deputy Director for Environment, Air Transport Bureau.

In her discussions with Vice-President Franco, Secretary General Liu addressed the importance of fostering due political will to support the advancement and modernization of the country’s air transport system, as well as the related importance of that political will to the realization of the sustainable socio-economic benefits for which international aviation connectivity is so vital.

The ICAO Secretary General also stressed the importance of aligned local, regional and global aviation security targets under ICAO’s forthcoming Global Aviation Security Plan, while encouraging the government to consider ICAO’s Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) priorities to best ensure its complimentary traveller facilitation and security objectives.

With respect to safety, Guatemala is presently scheduled to receive an ICAO Coordinated Validation

Mission in January 2018, and Dr. Liu signalled her expectation that it would confirm how Guatemala's renewed commitment and actions are helping to establish it as a compliance leader in the region.

Vice-President Franco thanked the Secretary General for her visit and dedication to the region, and reaffirmed the President's and his own commitment to ensure that these issues will have the continuous support of the government given its priority on attaining greater aviation-derived socio-economic benefits in Guatemala. Minister Morales and the other senior officials on hand also assured Secretary General Liu of their full support on these matters.

At a later meeting with the President of the Congress of Guatemala, Mr. Oscar Chinchilla, Secretary General Liu emphasized the importance of ensuring that Guatemala has a revised and updated legal framework, and expressed appreciation to the government for their proactive actions toward a revised law that will help the country ensure an autonomous aviation authority.



ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu (second from left) at the Head Table of the recently-completed Ibero-American Symposium on Environment, Civil Aviation and Climate Change. ICAO and its Member States, with close cooperation from industry and other stakeholders, continue to lead sector-wide efforts to address the environmental impacts of international aviation.

## Resources for Editors

### About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

[ICAO's North American, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office](#)  
[The ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation \(CORSIA\)](#)  
[ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative](#)

## Contacts

**Anthony Philbin**  
Chief, Communications

[aphilbin@icao.int](mailto:aphilbin@icao.int)  
+1 514-954-8220  
+1 438-402-8886 (mobile)  
Twitter: [@ICAO](https://twitter.com/ICAO)

**William Raillant-Clark**  
Communications Officer  
[wraillantclark@icao.int](mailto:wraillantclark@icao.int)  
+1 514-954-6705  
+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)  
Twitter: [@wraillantclark](https://twitter.com/wraillantclark)  
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)