

Opening

- Good morning, and thank you to ALTA for the opportunity to join you today. I am honored to represent the FAA at this preeminent gathering of aviation leaders.
- I was particularly eager to join this morning's discussion given my personal ties to the Caribbean. Many of the leaders here may not know this, but I grew up in the Bahamas and traveled extensively in my youth, as my father has been a pilot my entire life. So, I've always had great affection for both aviation and this important area of the globe.
- When I was appointed as the assistant administrator for policy, international affairs, and environment earlier this year, I received very clear direction from President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg to take action on **policies that make the aviation industry stronger and safer, as well as more resilient and sustainable.**
- Action means advancing the department's traditional values of **safety, innovation, and infrastructure**, while also being laser-focused on the industry's recovery. All of these values are integral within the priorities of the Biden-Harris administration, which include **climate change, equity, and economic recovery.**

Aviation Recovery from COVID-19

- I know many of our partners in the region share these ideals, so we look forward to our continued collaboration to ensure our shared success.
- *However, I would note that our challenge ahead cannot be overstated: **we must continue to work together to restore the global aviation network post-COVID-19, all the while increasing safety and protecting the environment.***
- Helping the global aviation industry recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic is a top priority and has been a prevailing theme among this forum. *And, for very a good reason.*
- Prior to COVID-19, Latin America and the Caribbean **represented one of the fastest growing international markets for U.S. air passengers**, with more than 40 percent of international flights departing from the U.S. heading to this region.
- I know the aviation industry, in all of our states, is eager to return to this level of operations. To do so, the FAA remains actively engaged on ICAO's Council on Aviation Recovery Task Force. **Through this forum, the international community has stepped up in a major way and combined its collective expertise and worked tirelessly to restore public confidence, while ensuring that aviation passengers, as well as airline and airport employees are protected from the virus.**

- I am happy to report that President Biden recently announced that **all fully vaccinated travelers will be allowed to enter the U.S. as soon as next month**, which is an important step toward normalizing operations again.

FAA Safety Efforts in the Caribbean

- **Safety is a common goal for everyone in this industry**, and the FAA strongly values our safety partnerships with states, industry, and operators in the region. One of our key partnerships is with the ICAO Regional Office in Mexico City.
- A few specific activities that we work on in the region include the **development and promotion of safety enhancements in runway excursions and incursions, loss-of-control in flight, and midair collisions**. We do most of this work with our Commercial Aviation Safety Team experts through the ICAO Regional Aviation Safety Group.
- To further affirm our commitment in this region, the FAA currently has placed a secondee at the ICAO Mexico City office to lead a project on Regional Airspace Optimization, in conjunction with NACC Member States and Industry. This critical initiative will identify areas for operational improvements **to gain efficiencies, lower carbon footprints, and harmonize with adjacent regions**.
- Another vital effort focused on improving safety and efficiency in the region is the CANSO Air Traffic Flow Management Data Exchange Network for the Americas or “CADENA.” CADENA is working to promote the implementation of **air traffic flow management and collaborative decision-making** – which encourages sharing vital information to allow airlines, airports, and Air Navigation Service Providers to make better-informed decisions. This is particularly crucial during periods of high demand and also for emergency events such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or even volcanos which unfortunately are all too common in this region.
- Airlines and service providers are already experiencing the benefits of CADENA. From a safety standpoint, CADENA develops contingency routes that can be used to temporarily avoid the impacted airspace ahead of Hurricanes Maria and Delta. The option provided airlines with a safe and viable choice to their destinations, saving the airline time and money.
- Then during a recent equipment outage in the region, carriers were able to submit their flights plans to CADENA’s online platform. This allowed airlines to fly alternate routes rather than cancel flights. Both examples highlight how simple methods such as collaboration and information sharing can enhance efficiencies and lead to tangible results.

- Throughout these many initiatives, and especially as operations continue to rebound to pre-COVID-19 levels, **Latin America and the Caribbean are a critical component and partner in the international aviation industry's recovery.**

Closing

- Thank you again for welcoming me and allowing me to share a few of our activities in the region. Ongoing dialogue and engagement will remain essential to meeting the challenge ahead.
- In this collaborative spirit, I am confident we will deliver stronger levels of safety, sustainability, and success for generations to come.
- Thank you for listening.