

Juan Carlos Salazar

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Colombian Candidate for Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation
Organization (2021 - 2024)



El futuro
es de todos

Cancillería
de Colombia

Profile

Juan Carlos Salazar is an air law expert and CEO-Level civil aviation executive, with over 26 years of unique experience in international aviation negotiations, management and public policies. He is the Chief Executive (CEO) of the civil aviation organization in Colombia, was a Senior Advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Civil Aviation Authority, has advanced degrees from Harvard University (Master in Public Administration - MPA) and McGill University (Master in Air and Space Law - LLM), is fluent in Spanish, English and French, and speaks Arabic.

Throughout his international aviation career Juan Carlos Salazar has developed a deep understanding of ICAO's work programme, has ample experience in the management of large and complex organization, with a track record in developing civil aviation business plans and ensuring a sound financial management of civil aviation organizations, has had extensive interaction with aviation authorities in all regions, civil aviation commissions and ICAO officials, and is recognized as an effective negotiator and consensus builder, which presents him as an ideal candidate to serve as Secretary General of ICAO.

Since January 2018, Mr. Salazar serves as Director General of Aeronautica Civil of Colombia – Aerocivil, being the CEO of a complex civil aviation organization that has over 3100 employees organized under 12 workers unions. He is responsible for a network of 72 public airports and the sole air navigation services provider of a country at the crossroad of air routes in Latin America.

Aerocivil is also the Civil Aviation Authority and aviation regulator of Colombia and in this capacity, Mr. Salazar has been responsible for implementation and enforcement of ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), developing and executing the 2030 Colombian civil aviation business plan, the Colombian Air Navigation Plan, preparing, generating and executing an annual budget of over 500 million US Dollar that include airport and air navigation infrastructure projects, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects and leading Colombian delegations to international events conferences such as the 40th ICAO General Assembly.

Juan Carlos Salazar has led the Aviation COVID 19 Crisis Management team in Colombia, implementing inter-agency coordination mechanisms, with private and public institutions from different sectors.

Under his leadership, Aerocivil has achieved the following:

- Inclusion of 2030 Aviation Strategic Plan as a chapter dedicated to civil aviation in Colombian National Development Plan
- Recognition of 2030 strategic plan as a model by various Latin American countries;
- Colombia was ranked among 10 fastest growing aviation markets worldwide by ACI, reflecting its growth in passenger and investments during 2018 (6.1%) and 2019 (9.2%);
- Colombia increased 60% the number of air transport agreements (from 44 to 70), enhancing its international air connectivity;
- Aerocivil solved a budget deficit and redesigned its budget programs, unfreezing various infrastructure projects and the hire of inspectors and operational personnel;
- Aerocivil training center (CEA) got Trainair Plus recognition, a university program approval and organized research, development and innovation events;

- Aerocivil increased 18.5% its FURAG score , ranking as one of the best in governance among Colombian State institutions;
- Aerocivil is currently implementing a transformation program that seeks to build a more resilient civil aviation organization by adopting the highest management standards.

Juan Carlos Salazar is the former President of Latin American Civil Aviation Commission – LACAC. Under his tenure he led the appointment and transition of the new Secretary General of this organization, the preparation of a consensus list of LACAC candidate member States to a successful 2019 ICAO Council election and represented LACAC in numerous international meetings and negotiations.

Before Aerocivil and for 12 years (2006 – 2018), Mr. Salazar was a Senior Advisor to the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority, at the center of the world’s fastest growing civil aviation system. In this capacity he established the Air Transport Department, conducted over 280 international negotiations and advised the UAE Government at international meetings such as ICAO General Assemblies, High Level Meetings, the 6th World Air Transport Conference, ICAN Conferences and Air Transport Regulating Panels.

Among other relevant positions, Juan Carlos Salazar has been Director Air Transport Office and Secretary of the Colombian Civil Aviation Board (2002 – 2006), Director General of Air Transport at the Colombian Ministry of Transport (2000-2002), Corporate Secretary, Director of the Legal Department and Alternate Legal Representative of Tampa Airlines - currently Avianca Cargo – (1993 – 1998) and Director of the Law Extension School at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (1992 – 1993). He has been professor of International Trade and customs legislation, Introduction to law, Air and space law and Air carrier liability, and is frequently invited as speaker to international conferences and courses.

The candidate has a track record of collaborative leadership in multicultural, specialized international environments and is recognized as an effective negotiator and consensus builder. With his international negotiation experience, he has further built and maintained excellent relations with a network of civil aviation organizations and authorities in all regions. Mr. Salazar is fluent in Spanish, English and French, speaks Arabic and has studied, worked and lived in South America, North America and the Middle East, which makes him a citizen of the world that is comfortable interacting with persons of different backgrounds and cultures.