On behalf of the Council President of ICAO, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu and of the Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the ICAO Course Developers and Instructors Standardization (CDI/STD) Meeting.

I wish to first thank the Republic of Kenya and Kenya Civil Aviation Authority in particular for its generosity and support by hosting this very important event. Indeed, this is a continuing collaboration, clearly manifesting itself by numerous other ICAO activities hosted by the Authority over the years and more so in the recent past.

Allow me also to take this opportunity, to express my gratitude to the respective Administrations/Organizations of all the participants here for expending invaluable resources, including time, to make it possible to come all the way from your respective countries to attend this meeting. This is a firm commitment and desire towards enhancement of capacity building and achievement of sustainable growth of the global civil aviation system.

As you already know, there is an increased demand in all aviation sectors due to rapid growth of aviation. Predictions almost doubling passengers by 2030 to 6.4 billion
5. As you are aware, growth comes with new jobs and necessities not even foreseen today, yet training will be needed rapidly once those jobs are defined, and aviation professionals will need to be equipped to expediently suit operational requirements.

6. Training plays a critical role in addressing the challenges related to building capacity to meet the demand specifically, competency-based training which ensures trainees are operational back in the field, needs to be implemented globally for aviation professions.

7. As TRAINAIR PLUS members, you are experts in competency training and play an important role in enabling the growth of competency-based training in your regions and localities. Through your initiatives, courses, programmes, and collaborations, you will all contribute to developing human capacity in aviation.

8. As the ICAO Regional Director for the Eastern Africa Region, I am pleased to welcome so many diverse countries and individuals to Nairobi, and to this meeting of training experts where you will learn and exchange best practices and solutions to training challenges, paving the way for your individual, team and organizational efforts.

9. Every region of the world is unique and has diverse challenges, and here in Africa we are no different. In the ESAR Region we have a great diversity of countries and capabilities, and it is through such meetings and events that those diversities can meld into common training tactics and strategies that will support local and regional capacity building.

10. I wish you all fruitful deliberations and an excellent experience, and I am fully confident you will leave here with many practical ideas to implement in your respective organizations upon your return.

11. With those remarks, it is my pleasure to declare this meeting officially open.

   Thank you…