



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH

(Presented by Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Mafidur Rahman,
Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh on behalf of Bangladesh)

President of the Assembly,
President of the Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
Madam Secretary-General, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
Your Excellencies Ministers of Transport and/Civil Aviation,
Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I offer my sincere appreciation for allowing me to make a brief statement before the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly.

1.2 As a Member State of ICAO, Bangladesh has sincerely carried out its obligations under the Chicago Convention and for the implementation of the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) detailed in ICAO Annexes. As a member State of ICAO, Bangladesh is fully committed to Safe, Secure and Sustainable Aviation in the Asia Pacific Region. Moreover, Bangladesh is also committed to the Strategic Objectives and global plans in the aviation sector. Bangladesh was awarded the Council President Certificate in 2018, recognizing the overall progress by the State in Aviation Safety.

1.3 Civil Aviation is an integral part of the growing economy as it contributes significantly to the national economy by connecting the nation to global markets. It has facilitated trade, expanded export markets, generated tourism, and is a key enabler of business and commerce. Although global civil aviation was badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and thus affected the global economy. We all are in the process of recovery and hope to revive soon to the pre-covid situation.

1.4 The Government of Bangladesh has a strong commitment to the development of capacity in the aviation sector. Bangladesh participates very actively at both regional and international levels, attending important events and meetings that consolidate the leadership achieved and promoting broader

cooperation and relations with other States and aviation organizations. In this context, a number of air service agreements, memorandums and other legal instruments have been signed.

1.5 We thank all States and particularly our fellow Asia Pacific States and international organizations for their continuous support in our civil aviation journey. We believe that international and regional cooperation and coordination, in any form, is one of the utmost contributors to the current picture of the civil aviation industry in Bangladesh.

1.6 These achievements also boost our confidence to continue our tremendous effort in enhancing Bangladesh's civil aviation performance along with self-awareness to collaborate with the other Member States in reaching similar goals.

2. COLLABORATING ON AVIATION SAFETY, SECURITY AND FACILITATION

2.1 We actively participate in various ICAO meetings, seminars, and workshops. We also actively participate in regional aviation safety and security capacity-building efforts via the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme-South/Asia (COSCAP-SA) and Cooperative Aviation Security Programme-Asia Pacific (CASP-AP). We are also privileged to serve as the Chairman of the CAPSCA Asia-Pacific.

2.2 Under Agenda Item 24, Technical assistance, which is a major component of the *No Country Left Behind* (NCLB) initiative, serves to assist all States on prioritized needs in advancing their civil aviation. Technical assistance provided through these platforms and Combined Action Team (CAT) missions helps regional States enhance their aviation safety and security capabilities. Such services have been extended to Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Fiji promoted by ICAO and APAC Region Office.

2.3 *Distinguished Delegates*, we all know that the Covid-19 pandemic put a lot of challenges on the aviation sector. Under Agenda Item 25: Specific Activities with regard to Technical Cooperation in relation to the NCLB initiative, Covid-19 also helped us to come closer to each other and to steer for a coordinated effort. Bangladesh has implemented various measures to revive air travel for socio-economic needs without compromising public health. Bangladesh has successfully turned around during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and has resumed normal operations and restored public confidence within a short time after the pandemic.

3. PROMOTING SAFE AND EFFICIENT AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

3.1 Bangladesh supports the ICAO fully in its work to deliver a seamless, harmonized, and sustainable air traffic management (ATM) arrangement globally. We actively participate in various ICAO meetings and expert groups to advance global and regional ATM initiatives and programs.

4. ADVANCING GLOBAL COOPERATION FOR THE MITIGATION OF INTERNATIONAL AVIATION EMISSIONS AND ROADMAP TOWARDS LTAG

4.1 As climate change is a global issue, Bangladesh recognizes the need for actions to be taken by each State as well as the industry to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international aviation. Bangladesh is working with our air operators and air navigation service providers for the Carbon

Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). Bangladesh also supports steps toward sustainable global aviation. We would like to work with others to find out an achievable roadmap toward ICAO's Long Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG).

5. ELECTRONIC CAPACITY BUILDING MATRICES (E-CCBM)

5.1 Bangladesh volunteered for the development of a software called 'Electronic Capacity Building Matrices (e-CCBM)' for member States of COSCAP-SA. The objective of the software is to improve the skills of the personnel of States' CAA, and Stakeholders by creating a pool of experts drawn from among the Member States so that expertise may easily be identified and shared within the region.

6. HOSTING 58TH DGCA CONFERENCE 2023 IN BANGLADESH

6.1 Bangladesh will host the 58th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation for the Asia and Pacific Region, which is scheduled to take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2023. We hope that the 58th DGCA Conference will provide us with an excellent opportunity to showcase our typical Bangladeshi hospitality and culture.

7. PROMOTING ICAO NGAP AND GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMME

7.1 The 57th DGCA conference adopted the theme topic for the 58th DGCA Conference as **"Promoting ICAO Gender Equality Programme in conjunction with Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative"**.

7.2 *Now Ladies and Gentlemen*, I would like to draw special attention to the Assembly that the honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, is a role model for women empowerment and under her able guidance Bangladesh has taken up very positive measures to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" nationally.

8. RATIFY PROTOCOLS TO AMEND [ARTICLE 50(A)] AND [ARTICLE 56] OF THE CONVENTION

8.1 To ensure a balanced representation of Member States in the Council and in the Air Navigation Commission, Bangladesh wishes to ratify the 2016 Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 50(a)] to increase the size of the Council from 36 to 40 members and the Protocol of Amendment to [Article 56] to increase membership of the Air Navigation Commission from 19 to 21. The ratification process of [Article 50(a)] and [Article 56] are taken up by Bangladesh and are in progress.

9. BANGLADESH'S CANDIDATURE TO THE ICAO COUNCIL IN PART III

9.1 I take this opportunity to announce the Candidature of Bangladesh for election as a Member of the ICAO Council in Part III at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly in September/October 2022. We

would deeply appreciate the valuable support from all ICAO Member States for Bangladesh as a Part III candidate.

9.2 We seek ICAO Member States' invaluable support for our candidature to the ICAO Council in Part II for the elections at the ICAO Assembly in October 2022.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 I would urge all to work together and appreciate the hard work of ICAO and continuously support ICAO to develop policies and standards for a safe, efficient and secure aviation system. May I quote Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1944

“Let us work together so that the air may be used by humanity, to serve humanity.”

10.2 Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General and the ICAO Secretariat for the efficient conduct of its business. I wish for a successful outcome of this Assembly.

Long Live ICAO!

Thank you very much!

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