



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY MR. WON HEE-RYONG, MINISTER FOR LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Presented by the Republic of Korea)

President of the Assembly,
President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano
Secretary-General of the ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for allowing me to make a statement in front of the esteemed 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. Before I begin, I would also like to thank the ICAO Secretariat and its staff for preparing this Assembly.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Air transport connects people and cities beyond borders and contributes to cultural exchanges, bringing the international community closer. ICAO has been leading the development of the industry by promoting cooperation for the safety and growth of civil aviation, and this year marks the 70th (seventieth) anniversary of Korea's membership in ICAO.

1.2 Korea joined ICAO in 1952 (nineteen fifty two) when the Korean War was coming to an end. Since then, Korea rose from the ashes of the war and achieved unprecedented economic growth, becoming an air transport powerhouse. It was all made possible thanks to the support of ICAO and its 193 (one hundred and ninety three) Member States.

2. KOREA-ICAO COOPERATION

2.1 Having witnessed the importance and role of ICAO, the Korean government is working to uphold the value and principles of the "No Country Left Behind" Initiative of ICAO. And now, in appreciation of the support we have received from ICAO and the international community, Korea hopes to pay it forward to other countries.

2.2 Korea will continue to support and expand the Korea-ICAO Fellowship Training Programme which has been in place since 2001 (two thousand one), and Master Degree Programme in Aviation Management which was launched in 2020 (twenty twenty). We will closely coordinate with ICAO and Regional Aviation Authorities so that the programmes can be tailored to meet the needs of each country.

2.3 Korea supports the ICAO Transformation Objective, which aims to modernize and increase the efficiency of the Organization for the development of the international aviation community, and plans to contribute 600,000(six hundred thousand) dollars to the Digital Transformation Fund from 2023(twenty twenty-three) to 2025(twenty twenty-five). I hope that this will serve as a foundation for the development of ICAO and the Member States.

3. SAFETY AND SECURITY IN AVIATION

3.1 Distinguished guests, Safety and security are of great significance in aviation. Korea also places the utmost importance on the safety of aviation. We will join in the efforts of ICAO to establish safety management policies and standards, thereby leading the development of aviation safety.

4. ENVIRONMENT

4.1 In addition, the Korean government will actively take part in the discussions of LTAG and CORSIA so that we can tackle global environmental challenges.

4.2 Climate change response is one of the most urgent matters of our times as it is about the survival of the humanity. This is why we need to act now to implement decarbonisation technology that is proven to be effective.

4.3 Korea is already implementing decarbonisation strategies that are available immediately for aircraft operations. Also, we plan to reach net zero in aviation by utilizing innovative technologies like sustainable aviation fuel, electric aircraft, and hydrogen-powered aircraft. To tackle global warming, realistic and affordable decarbonisation strategy will be one of Korea's key policy goals, ensuring a safe and sustainable future for aviation.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Ladies and gentlemen, Connection lies at the heart of the international aviation network. For some, opening up the skies means trust, and for others, it means promise of mutual prosperity. Based on this trust and promise, the Korean government wishes to contribute to the development of international civil aviation once again as an ICAO Council member. I ask for your unwavering support and attention.

5.2 I once again express my sincere gratitude to the members of ICAO, including Mr. President and Mr. Secretary General, for your hard work, and I hope that the 41st Assembly will be a success. Thank you.

Mr. Won Hee-ryong
Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Republic of Korea