



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY THAILAND

(Presented by Thailand)

President of the Assembly,
President of the ICAO Council,
Secretary-General of ICAO,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to make a brief statement at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the President of the Council, the Secretary General and the ICAO secretariat for making this hybrid meeting possible as well as the Government of Canada for your kind hospitality.

For the past two years, aviation community has faced one of the worst crises in history. The COVID-19 pandemic not only led to a total disruption in the global aviation system but also brought aviation industry to an almost downfall. However, the highest compliment should be given to ICAO for your leadership and swift response. With the establishment of the Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) and its remarkable achievement in producing the CART report and Take-off guidance, states and industry were able to resume international air travel safely.

As a country whose economy relies heavily on tourism, Thailand's economy and aviation industry was hit severely from travel restrictions and complications from health-related measures. 2020 marked the year that our growth in air transport sector was at its lowest in the past 10 years. A sharp decrease in passengers directly impacted on the viability of our operators and other aviation-related industries. Some stopped their operations, others, unfortunately, had to go out of business.

To prevent further casualties and to support a steady recovery, the "Aviation Industry Recovery Roadmap 2022 – 2025" was developed with the objective to assist aviation operators and sustain the growth of the Thai aviation industry. This roadmap was divided into 3 phases with the aim to help the aviation industry to "survive", "strengthen" and "sustain". It is expected that the full recovery will be achieved in 2025 when the number of passengers and aircraft movement reach the same level as in 2019.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the world is recovering from the pandemic, other challenges still remain on the horizon. Safety and security remain on top of our agenda. Thailand is committed to maintain our standards in compliance with ICAO Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and intend to increase our Effective Implementation (EI) scores to be higher than the global average. This would fulfill our commitment in the Beijing Declaration and gain confidence from fellow member states and the traveling public.

On the advancement of the Unmanned Aircraft System, Thailand sees the potential in utilizing drone for agricultural purpose as part of our smart farming concept while keeping safety and security standards in mind. We have also set up the UAS regulatory sandbox to serve as a trial ground for unmanned aircraft standards development and technological experiment.

Environmental protection is of paramount importance. Thailand is committed to reduce CO₂ emission by voluntarily participating in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and submitting our State Action Plan (SAP) Initiative on CO₂ Emission Reduction to ICAO. Additionally, we decided to join the ICAO Assistance, Capacity Building, and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT-SAF) programme in order to establish a foundation that will lead to a significant reduction in CO₂ emission by following ICAO's guidelines.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A clear blue sky is waiting ahead of us. In order for aviation sector to return to its former glory, international collaboration is key. We would like to encourage all member states to exchange experience, share lesson learnt and continue collaborative efforts through existing ICAO platforms in order to drive the growth of international air travel without jeopardizing safety and security and taking into consideration efficiency and sustainability. We urge member states with greater capability to assist other states in overcoming their own limitations, echoing ICAO's No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative.

Under the leadership of ICAO, we strongly believe that any future challenges can be overcome. As a member state and a host country to ICAO Asia and Pacific office, Thailand will step up our effort in rebuilding international aviation and reaffirm our commitment to support ICAO's initiatives, work closely with all member states as well as industry partners and offer, within our ability, our assistance to those in need.

Thank you very much.

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