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ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY TUVALU

(Presented by TUVALU)

President of the Assembly
Excellencies Honourable Ministers
President of the Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano
Secretary General of ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar
Distinguish Guest
Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank you for the opportunity to deliver a short statement from the Government and the People of Tuvalu.

Tuvalu is an infant member of ICAO and this is our 2nd time participating in ICAO Assemblies. I have to say, Madam President that our delegation is honored to represent our beloved country at this prestigious forum, where we would be able to voice out our vulnerability and our aspirations in our attempt to ensure that our aviation industry is in compliance with ICAO safety and security standards first and for most.

Madam President

The development of our domestic air services and the establishment of a state-owned airline are in the pipeline meanwhile. In addition, we have never experienced any major catastrophic incident in our aviation industry and we intend to maintain that momentum for as long as we can. However, as small as we are, we would really need the assistance of ICAO and of course, our diplomatic collaborations such as Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan to ensure that our aviation industry is up to standards and portrays the beauty of Tuvalu.

Madam President

As a new member of ICAO, we do fully support the full inclusion of all nations in ICAO assemblies, as we need to advocate a joint community for the betterment of our world, which is rightly in line with ICAO's theme of "Reconnecting the world". Specifically, Tuvalu would like to ask that ICAO fully include Taiwan as a sovereign nation in all its forums and gatherings.

Madam President

The Taiwan Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) is the sole entity overseeing and is responsible for safe air traffic management throughout the Taipei FIR. However, in August 2022, the military exercises around Taiwan affected international air routes and jeopardized aviation safety in the Taipei FIR and neighboring FIRs. The Taiwan CAA did not receive advance communication. In an effort to avert danger and alleviate safety concerns, it had to plan for and guide aircraft, including many foreign aircraft, departing, arriving in, or transiting the Taipei FIR over a very short period. The case burdened airlines with additional costs due to their need to take longer and more expensive journeys and substantially increased unforeseen risk.

Madam President

From both a risk and safety management perspective, ICAO should allow the Taiwan CAA to participate in ICAO so that it is able to communicate with other FIRs and provide and obtain timely information via ICAO, as well as contribute to regional and global aviation safety, thus achieving ICAO's objective of reconnecting the world in the post-pandemic era.

Madam President and Distinguished Delegates

In conclusion, allow me to once again wholeheartedly thank the ICAO leadership for extending the invitation for Tuvalu to attend this significant Assembly and with the continued cooperation with the Government of Tuvalu.

Madam President, Excellencies, I thank you for your attention.

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