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**Opening remarks by the Secretary General
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Dr. Fang Liu,
to the 54th Asia-Pacific DGCA Conference**

(Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – 7 August 2017)

*Honourable Minister of Transport for Mongolia, Mr. Dangaa Ganbat,
ICAO Council President, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,
Distinguished Asia-Pacific Directors General of Civil Aviation,
Heads of Delegations,
Delegates from States, Industry Partners and International Organizations,*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour to join you here in Ulaanbaator.
2. I would first like to thank our colleagues at the Mongolian CAA, led by your Director General of Civil Aviation, Mr. Byambasuren Luvsansambuu, for the excellent facilities and arrangements which have been prepared for us.
3. To enhance the effectiveness of your work over the coming days, this year's Asia-Pacific DGCA has been designed differently from previous conferences to make it more results-focused.
4. It will still provide us with an excellent opportunity to discuss regional issues of importance, but this year our APAC Regional Office has taken a new initiative to reform your event with a stronger focus on implementation. There will also be a series of interactive sessions to help you move forward on agreed regional targets and priorities.
5. This year we have also introduced a Panel Discussion featuring some of the most renowned international aviation personalities and their visions for the future of air transport in the Asia Pacific. I greatly look forward to moderating this discussion tomorrow.
6. Regarding the interactive aspects of this event, you'll have noticed that one full day is being devoted to a new format of intensive group discussions between DGs and senior officials, on three distinct topics identified as major challenges in this region: namely Runway Safety; Civil Military Cooperation; and the Resolution of Security deficiencies.
7. During these interactive breakout sessions for the DGs, a separate Technology session will be held for the other participants. An additional session will be focusing on PBN implementation.
8. We would like to encourage bilateral and networking meetings to promote greater cooperation, coordination and collaboration. Our hosts have arranged for dedicated meeting rooms for this purpose, and a help desk outside the conference hall is standing by to assist you.

9. During the past year, Director Mishra and his Bangkok Regional Office team have been ramping up their efforts to assist Asia-Pacific States with SARP implementation and other objectives. The Combined Action Teams initiative is just one such example and should be well known to all of you by now.
10. With helpful support from local champion States and partnering international organizations, Action Team support was provided to 11 APAC member States last year. These States were chosen due to their safety audit Effective Implementation ratings being below the global average of 60%, and a further 10 CAT missions are being undertaken this year with the same objectives.
11. This CAT program aims at improving the Effective Implementation of State's Safety Oversight Systems under the overarching framework of No Country Left Behind. I am very optimistic about our success as I see a lot of enthusiasm amongst States to perform better with increasing level of support from their respective governments. The short term results have led to improved EI ratings for a number of States, and we've been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitments relating to these goals.
12. In the area of air navigation, rapid growth is posing more and more new challenges and some of these will be discussed during this conference.
13. The 10 regional targets and priorities adopted by the 2014 APANPIRG should continue to guide this work, but we still face several important challenges in that regard due to insufficient progress. For example with respect to our important PBN implementation priorities, only 9 States out of the 24 who have reported back to us have achieved the regional target.
14. One area where we can all continue to take great pride is Aviation Safety. 2016 was the safest year ever for scheduled commercial air travel, and here in the APAC region you achieved an admirable 1.79 accidents per million departures compared to global average of 2.44. This represents a 27 per cent decrease compared to the previous year.
15. However the implementation of Safety Enhancement Initiatives developed by the APRAST is progressing very slowly, and needs special attention from you.
16. While we recognize that the overriding priority of the States with low EIs would be to establish a robust safety oversight organization, it is important that the implementation of Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) that are being introduced by your Regional Aviation Safety Group and its subsidiary bodies, also need to be done in parallel.
17. On another quite positive note, it is heartening to see that Nepal has now successfully resolved their Significant Safety Concern.
18. In the area of Aviation Security and Facilitation, we have made significant progress which will be shared in detail with you by the Chair of RASCF later in this conference. We have also tried to build partnerships with other organizations like the World Customs Organization and relevant UN bodies to evolve a common approach to improve aviation security, while maintaining a keen focus on our complementary goals for a more streamlined and unobstructed passenger and cargo facilitation experience.
19. Globally our sector continues to face significant challenges with new and emerging security threats, and the APAC region is no exception. Aviation remains a preferred target for terrorism, and ICAO has been working very closely through the UN Security Council and with other partners so that

aviation can maximize its contributions to the global effort to minimize the international mobility of terrorists and other trans-border criminals.

20. Security Council Resolution 2309, which was adopted just last year, calls upon all States to strengthen security screening procedures and maximize the promotion, utilization and sharing of new technologies and innovative techniques that maximize the capability to detect explosives and other threats. It also calls upon governments to strengthen their cooperation and information sharing with respect to evolving security checkpoint technologies.
21. Last month I attended a Special meeting of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on "Terrorist Threats to Civil Aviation", and it was proposed there that the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), in cooperation with ICAO, should continue to explore new means of addressing the terrorist threat through various ICAO elements of our ICAO Traveller Identification Programme Strategy.
22. Looking ahead, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the year after next, 2019, will mark the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
23. This historic event will coincide with our hosting of the 40th ICAO Triennial Assembly, and while we are still some distance away from these events I would like to encourage your States to begin considering and planning special events and outreach efforts designed to highlight the remarkable contributions and achievements of international aviation.
24. This may include for instance the development and issuance of commemorative national stamps or coins, special publications on the history of air transport development in your States and territories, or public information displays showcasing the important role of aviation in the daily lives of your citizens and businesses.
25. Importantly, major anniversaries of this nature should also be seen as opportunities for us to focus on our sector's future, even as we appreciate its past contributions and progress.
26. I would bring it to your attention that we do not yet have a host State for the DGCA Conference in 2019, and that we will be looking forward to offers from States in the near future.
27. Ladies and gentlemen, ICAO, with important contributions from our Regional Offices, has been re-engineering itself of late to be a more streamlined organization; one focused on supporting your more effective ICAO compliance and, ultimately, the augmented and sustainable prosperity of your local populations and economies.
28. To continue this work, and ensure our shared success, we must count on the full support of you, our Member States, as well as the many partnering aviation, United Nations and other organizations who are so essential to our work.
29. As air transport is making more significant and comprehensive contributions to economic development here in the APAC Region today, and all over the world, I look forward to working with you as close partners on optimizing its potential to support effective and sustainable development for your societies and businesses.
30. Thank you.