

Dreams Soar Outreach Event

Speech by: Mr. Mohamed Rahma
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Excellency Mr. Sherif Fathy, honorable Minister of Civil Aviation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Engineer Hany Al Adawy President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Egypt
Dr. Maya Morsy, President of the National Council for Women
Distinguished audience ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the President of ICAO Dr. Benard Aliu and the Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H. E. Mr. Sherif Fathy Minister of civil Aviation of Egypt and his team who made it possible for “dreams to soar” in Egypt, Your Excellency I commend the dedication and the professionalism of the team at the Ministry of civil Aviation the planning and the logistical support which made it possible for Shaesta to smoothly fly into Cairo International. This is not new to Egypt; we recall that Solar Impulse 2 aircraft landed in Cairo in July last year. Egypt with its exceptional geographic location and its highly experienced professionals is the destination for such historic aviation milestones.

It is my great honor not only as the regional director of ICAO in the Middle East but as an Egyptian in the first place to welcome in Cairo Captain Shaesta Waiz and her Bonanza aircraft who landed in Cairo last Friday morning on her inspiring brave mission travelling the globe solo to recognize the growing role for women in aviation and how they contribute to the aviation’s continued development, economic growth and sustainability and raise awareness for the greater global access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education for youth especially young girls for the the future generation of aviation professionals.

Shaesta’s incredible journey, which encourages young generation worldwide to believe in themselves and allow their ‘dreams to soar; started on 13th May 2017 from Daytona Beach, Florida, flying the Dreams Soar route through 34 stops on five continents totaling more than 25 nm . Shaesta, we are happy to have you here in Egypt, and together we are celebrating today the fulfillment of another big milestone in the dream to soar programme, this act of courage and determination that sets a role model for young females and males around the globe.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

This unique journey is a significant step in promoting ICAO’s Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) programme, which is focused on creating opportunities for the many young people, globally seeking rewarding and lifelong professions in the exciting and vibrant aviation industry and attracting

the best and brightest to fill the thousands of careers which will be needed for new skilled air transport workforce.

ICAO has been working with key stakeholders to address the forecasted shortage of aviation professionals. ICAO is also enhancing its global cooperation with universities and other UN organizations which share the common need to encourage girls and women to pursue academic studies in aviation related disciplines. The NGAP Programme was launched to assist States to ensure that an adequate number of qualified and competent aviation professionals are available to operate, manage and maintain the future international air transport system.

ICAO has been supporting the Dreams Soar Initiative by facilitating communications and coordination with, and garnering logistical and financial support from States and industry for Shaesta's flight.

ICAO is honored to be a main Dreams Soar supporter, and we are very pleased that Shaesta's objectives align so well not only with our established NGAP programme, but also the new Gender Equality Programme we have recently launched. As you might know only 3-5% of commercial pilots globally are women today and that percentage must rise significantly if aviation is to effectively address its long-term human resources challenges. Dreams Soar is an amazing opportunity for us to bring this important message to young women all over the world.

Aviation has always called out to adventurers and innovators, and Shaesta is a tremendous example of what our sector is looking for in the next generation of aviation professionals. How well we attract the best and the brightest young men and women to aviation careers will be critical to how effectively we confront and manage the challenges of growth which lie ahead, and Shaesta and her journey are an inspiration to them all.

Once Again Your Excellency I do appreciate all the efforts done by Egypt to transform dreams into reality and I do personally appreciate you Excellency's attendance here despite your very busy schedule.

Thank you.