



ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

STATEMENT

(Presented by Rwanda)

Mr. President of the Assembly,
Mr. President of the Council of ICAO,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a privilege for me to take the floor at this august Assembly on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Rwanda and to bring you, the delegates of the Contracting States of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the warmest greetings of the people and Government of Rwanda.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the President of this 35th Session of the Assembly, as well as the Chairmen of the Commissions. I must also congratulate all the countries which have just been elected to the Council for the triennium 2005-2006-2007 by the delegates to this august Assembly.

Mr. President, allow me to express our warmest congratulations to the President of the Council and to the Secretary General of ICAO for their tireless efforts to ensure the smooth functioning of our ICAO family and particularly for their attention to the organization of this 35th Session, including the preparation and distribution of the documentation for the 2004 Session of the Assembly; I am referring to Doc 9826.

Mr. President, the Government of Rwanda sincerely thanks the host country, Canada, and the authorities of the Province of Quebec and of the City of Montreal for the hospitality afforded to our delegation, which I have the honour of leading.

The Government of Rwanda cannot remain indifferent to the proposals of the Council relating to the arrangements to be made or already made regarding the settlement of arrears, technical and financial support for the rehabilitation of Rwanda's aeronautical infrastructures and development of our human resources, which were decimated during the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, when more than a thousand people were killed in only three months.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates, I cannot end without briefly describing to you the efforts undertaken by Rwanda to comply with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices:

- 1) Training of personnel
Thanks to offers of training from friendly countries having centres approved by ICAO, Rwanda was able to train a good number of its aeronautical operational personnel but still requires more trained personnel.
- 2) Aeronautical information
Rwanda has finished preparing a new format for the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) which will soon be published.
- 3) Navigational aids
 - The Instrument Landing System (ILS), calibrated in 2004, is currently functioning satisfactorily according to users.
 - The VHF Omnidirectional Radio Range/Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME) has been upgraded.
 - Installation of Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) and World Geodetic System-84 (WGS-84) at Kigali international airport, Kamembe airport in Cyangugu (CNS/ATM) and Gesenyi airport.
 - In cooperation with South Africa, installation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) very small aperture terminal (VSAT) system has just been completed in August 2004 and the first test results have been satisfactory.
- 4) Airport infrastructure
Kigali International Airport, located in Kanombe, is currently being completely renovated, including the runway, the taxiway and the facilities. The renovation work includes:
 - strengthening of the runway and parking area, rainwater drainage, construction of a new taxiway;
 - renovation of the control tower;
 - runway and approach lights and replacement of parking area lighting
 - installation of three new emergency generator systems (350 kVA each) and replacement of the electrical grid;
 - installation of new navigational aids (new ILS/VOR/DME, VSAT safety telephone, control tower equipment and meteorological equipment);
 - procurement of much more modern, large-capacity fire fighting vehicles.

The main challenge is to complete the work without interrupting air traffic and the first steps have been encouraging given that work began four months ago.

The Government of Rwanda is also modernizing other airports in the interior of the country with a view to ensuring greater safety for aircraft and passengers.

5) Reform of the civil aviation administration

Thanks to the financial and technical support of ICAO and the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), a project to establish an independent Civil Aviation Administration has been implemented; the Act establishing it is in the process of being published in the Journal Officiel of Rwanda.

The principle of implementation of the Fifth Freedom has been accepted in Rwanda in accordance with the Yamoussoukro Decision and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa(COMESA) legal notice No.2 on liberalization. Full liberalization will come shortly as the process has already begun.

6) Safety and security

- Baggage is inspected by canine units.
- Access to airports is monitored by personnel trained in civil aviation security using X-ray equipment for screening and control of dangerous objects.

The Government of Rwanda is asking ICAO for assistance in establishing the newly created Civil Aviation Administration and asks the Member States of our Organization to be more aware of the need for bilateral or multilateral cooperation for training technical personnel to operate the new air traffic management system.

I would like to end my statement on that note. Thank you, Mr. President.

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