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PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY EGYPT

(Presented by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I am pleased to congratulate the President of the 38th Session of the Assembly, and members and steering staff who were honoured to be selected by the member States. It also pleases me to convey to you the sincere greetings of the Egyptian Civil Aviation family wishing all success for this distinguished Assembly.

I also present our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of Canada, the Province of Quebec and the beautiful City of Montreal and its hospitable people for their excellent reception, warmth and generous hospitality.

The civil aviation sector is one of the main incentives driving economic growth in the world. At a time when financial troubles in the last few years have cast their shadows on a number of fundamental sectors, and have affected the role of each of these sectors in pushing or upsetting the progress of economic development, the civil aviation sector was not affected. It continued to provide employment and support the various efforts in promoting local and world economy.

The civil aviation sector has faced several challenges in the 21st century. But the initiatives of ICAO and international cooperation in the fields of aviation security and air safety, as well as the idea of world partnerships, have had a major effect in the protection of common interests and the realization of joint benefits.

The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt pays tribute to the policies and efforts of ICAO regarding regional cooperation, and offering its assistance and advice in technical aspects and the policies related to civil aviation bodies to shoulder their responsibilities associated with the Convention of International Civil Aviation, and the strategic objectives of ICAO. This was approved by the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly in Resolution 37-21, which provided that the Council should ensure, through cooperative arrangements, that both ICAO and the regional civil aviation bodies encourage States to harmonize operational regulations, requirements and procedures, based on Standards and Recommended Practices.

¹ Arabic version provided by Egypt

The strict adherence by the Arab Republic of Egypt to ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices in the fields of security and safety, as well as other fields of civil aviation, has been the main driver in securing aviation safety and security in airports and in the Egyptian airspace during the events that took place in Egypt in that previous period.

The Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority had presented all facilities for the realization of safety of international air navigation. It has borne all the burdens of the progressive increase in air traffic due to the closure of certain airspaces of neighbouring states during this period.

In spite of operating in these extraordinary conditions, the Egyptian civil aviation has been able to pass several security and safety audit procedures which had been established by the FAA of the United States, and the audits of the European Union, the American Transport Safety, the TSA, as well as the British Transport Department DFT, thus maintaining the international standard for safety and security. This was evident in the outcome of such audits, as well as the continued operation of incoming and outgoing flights at the Egyptian airports as well as those crossing the Egyptian airspace.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is always working under the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, and under the coordination and cooperation with all ICAO member States and regional organizations.

In the area of liberating air transport, Egypt has provided the just and equitable opportunities to all airlines to conduct air transport by giving them a set of preferential measures which would also secure the continued involvement in international air transport as approved by the Fourth and Sixth Air Transport Conferences.

Egypt has spent millions of dollars in the establishment and expansion of air transport infrastructure, including airports, airlines and navigation services to absorb the development rates in the expected air traffic as a result of adopting the open sky policy. Egyptian air traffic system has been developed to match the up-to-date requirements which have been approved by ICAO, and a satellite network has been established to cover all Egyptian airports.

Egypt has signed many air transport agreements based on liberalized principles and foundations and without constraints that might limit traffic, type of aircraft or number of flights. Egypt also works diligently to complete the development of competition rules and protect the rights of the consumer in accordance with the guidelines approval by ICAO and in coordination and cooperation with international and regional air transport organizations and associations.

The geographic position of Egypt, as a meeting place of three continents, and by virtue of its being one of the most important tourist destinations in the world, the efficiency and effectiveness of the civil aviation sector represent one of the foundations for the attainment of our national policies and objectives, especially the increase of traffic development rates in the Middle East region. We do seek to continue this effectiveness, and compliance with international standards in all activities of civil aviation.

Based on our belief in the importance of the human factor, which is the main element and the basic engine of development, training programmes have been prepared and implemented to cover all technical fields for civil aviation employees, through a major educational institution, represented by the Egyptian Academy for Civil Aviation, which has been equipped with modern technologies while applying programmes for all activities of civil aviation.

Aeronautical safety and aviation security, as well as the support efforts dealing with aeronautical subjects, are matters of major importance to international civil aviation. We are pleased to confirm that the Arab

Republic of Egypt attaches great importance to such matters, while being fully adherent to the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme, and the Universal Security Audit Programme, and full compliance to the international standards in this respect.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is proud to be one of the founding States of the Chicago Convention. It is also a member of the ICAO Council since its inception. It carries its responsibilities in all fields of civil aviation, and complies with ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices, and has pledged to continue to contribute positively to the development and safety and security of international civil aviation.

In conclusion, we would like to present sincere thanks to his Excellency the President and to the distinguished members of the Assembly, for giving us the opportunity to deliver this statement. The Arab Republic of Egypt will be grateful to member States of ICAO for supporting the re-election of Egypt to membership of the ICAO Council in the second category.

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