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ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY MR. RYUJI MASUNO, THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN, BEFORE THE 38TH ICAO ASSEMBLY

(Presented by Japan)

Mr. Michel Wachenheim, President of the 38th Assembly of ICAO,
Mr. Roberto Kobeh González, President of the Council of ICAO,
Mr. Raymond Benjamin, Secretary General of ICAO,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

INTRODUCTION

It is a great honour for me to make a brief statement on behalf of the Japanese government before this ICAO Assembly.

I wish to start by expressing my deepest appreciation for the President of the Council, Mr. Kobeh, for his excellent leadership, and my sincere respect to the Secretary General, Mr. Benjamin, and his staff in the Secretariat for their efforts in driving forward ICAO initiatives. My appreciation also goes to the host country, Canada, for its warmest hospitality to us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Japan's commitment to and full support for ICAO's vision and activities toward the sustainable growth of the global civil aviation system by way of developing policies and standards in fields such as safety, air navigation capacity and efficiency, security and facilitation, economic development of air transport, and environmental protection.

Among all these important issues, I would like to highlight several points on which Japan has put its highest priorities.

SAFETY: GASP

First, with regard to aviation safety, which is always the top priority of civil aviation, the revised Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) has been submitted to this Assembly for endorsement.

Japan fully supports the new strategy and framework set out in the revised GASP, and is ready to more actively contribute to the activities in areas such as safety oversight, State Safety Program (SSP), and Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG), in order to implement the new plan targeting upgraded aviation safety for the next 15 years.

AIR NAVIGATION: GANP

Second, regarding air navigation, I would like to highlight the importance of the new Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) that is also to be endorsed by this Assembly. Japan intends to contribute to the implementation of GANP toward seamless air traffic management, also in line with Japan's own future air navigation strategy named CARATS.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Third, for the successful implementation of both GASP and GANP, it is essential to strengthen and facilitate regional cooperation. One of Japan's most recent visible contributions to the region is a senior Japanese expert sent to the recently-opened ICAO Regional Sub-Office in Beijing who makes possible the sharing of Japan's advanced technology and experience of air traffic flow management (ATFM) with all the Asia Pacific countries.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Mr. President,

International cooperation has always been one of Japan's top priorities. I reaffirm that Japan continues to contribute to the world's civil aviation community in response to each region's specific needs in fields such as aviation safety, air navigation, and airport construction and management, in order to pursue further development of the international civil aviation.

ENVIRONMENT: CLIMATE CHANGE

I would also like to briefly mention the environmental issue which necessitates international cooperation in order to be solved. Japan recognizes that addressing climate change is an urgent issue and that it is one of the highest priorities of the international community.

Japan appreciates the enormous efforts made by ICAO with its strong leadership on this issue. I firmly believe that it is critical for this session of the Assembly to reach a fruitful agreement among all the Parties, based both on the achievement of the long discussions had up until now and on the spirit of constructive compromise of all the Parties, so that we, the aviation community, can show our strongest commitment to this global issue under ICAO's leadership.

CONCLUSION

Last but not least, as one of the largest contributors to ICAO, Japan would like to emphasize its expectation that ICAO should keep exercising work programs in the most effective and efficient manner so as to best address the various challenges faced by the international aviation community.

I hope this session of the Assembly will be a great success.

Thank you.

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