



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

A38-WP/428

P/46

2/10/13

**(Information paper)**

**English only**

## **ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

#### **Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States**

#### **STATEMENT BY SAMOA**

(Presented by Samoa)

President of the ICAO Assembly  
President of the ICAO Council  
The Secretary General of ICAO  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

As Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure, I bring warm greetings to this 38<sup>th</sup> ICAO General Assembly, from my Government and the people of Samoa.

I consider it a great honour and privilege to be here in Montreal for this august occasion, which comes around every three years. My predecessors in attending past ICAO Assemblies have expounded on its positives, not only as a grand opportunity to partake in the serious business of ICAO deliberations, but also a rare chance to network with fellow delegates and bask in the magnificent atmosphere and hospitality that this wonderful city has to offer.

Much credit must go to ICAO's leadership in promoting policies and initiatives that advance aviation safety. ICAO has spearheaded progress in key areas such as runway safety, fatigue risk management, and a systems and data driven approach to safety, working in close partnership with States and industry groupings. ICAO's leadership in pushing through global air safety advances is a fine example of the sort of whole-of-aviation partnership towards implementation of positive change.

We commend the ICAO USAP Audit team that had conducted Samoa's second round of USAP Audit completed in November 2012. This yielded some very encouraging results for our State, as there were only twenty eight (28) recommendations identified and no Serious Security Concerns (SSCs).

For its part, Samoa, like other Pacific Small Island member States of ICAO, strives to comply with all the relevant safety and security SARPs (Standards and Recommended Practices), and to enhance the oversight of its aviation stakeholders by working closely with our Pacific Regional Safety Oversight Organization, PASO.

In conjunction with other PASO member States, Samoa is actively engaged with the World Bank through its funding assistance in a collaborative effort to improve the structure, governance and operations of PASO and to ensure that a sustainable funding mechanism for it is in place. If all goes to plan too, Samoa

is also poised to receive a much needed grant funding from the World Bank to improve its airport safety and security infrastructures, in mid-2014.

Samoa would like to see the continuation of combined ICAO and PASO technical and oversight trainings that should assist PASO States build technical capacity within the Pacific region. We also request to be included in any ICAO technical assistance program for Pacific Islands to finalize our SSPs, State PBN Plans and to assess the applications of ASBUs to our small aviation environments.

Lastly but most importantly, I would like to conclude by touching on Climate Change. This is a global priority issue and Samoa being one of the Small Island Developing States most vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and other adverse climatic changes associated with GHG (Green House Gases), considers this issue a huge threat to its livelihood. As Samoa will be hosting a UN SIDS meeting in August 2014, I am in no doubt that this will be one of the hot topics on its meeting agenda.

Despite the seemingly collective good intentions floated at the last two ICAO Assemblies, the palpable absence to date of definitive and solid measures that are likely to be accepted by ALL member States remains an enigma still.

Most at-risk Small Island Developing States like Samoa are parties to the Kyoto Protocol amongst other environmental conventions, which all seemed futile espousals, if ICAO does not play a stronger enforcement stance in the reduction of our industry's carbon emissions.

We urge the more developed member countries of ICAO to consider our Small Island Developing State's sea level plight seriously, and staunchly assist ICAO in its UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) mandate, so that our industry can make an effective contribution to the global mitigation of this perennial and looming environmental crisis.

Towards such an end, Samoa is prepared to lend its voice, insignificant as it maybe, to support any ICAO endorsed market based initiative or measure that will incorporate the "*Common but Differentiated Responsibility*" viewpoint, popularized by most concerned ICAO member States.

May our Good Lord continue to bless us all and guide and steer ICAO and its governing Council in all its future plans and endeavors, and bless this lovely city of Montreal and its people.

SOIFUA

— END —