



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND

(Presented by New Zealand)

President of the ICAO Council,
President of the Assembly,
Distinguished Delegates

Following the events of the past few years, an efficient and effective law-based international civil aviation regime is more important than ever. Ahead, we have a broad range of significant and complex challenges that we must manage together. Alongside these challenges come opportunities – and ambition is key: ambition to accelerate climate change mitigation, re-build better, and reconnect in new ways.

New Zealand strives for high ambition for climate action, including from the international aviation sector. New Zealand hopes this Assembly will agree to the fundamental importance of setting a long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) that will guide aviation decarbonisation. An LTAG will give direction and confidence to investors, operators, consumers, territories, and countries that this industry does want to play its part to reduce CO₂ emissions; that it is prepared to take action; and that in taking this action, no country is left behind. Alongside this, New Zealand supports the ongoing implementation of CORSIA and efforts must be taken to ensure it retains its ambition and purpose.

For all of us, aviation connectivity is key to driving greater economic activity critical to our recovery. In other meetings we have heard arguments that we should wait until the recovery is fully embedded before looking at changes to the regulatory system. We disagree. The sector needs the confidence of an enabling environment to rebuild. Airlines, particularly those whose home capital markets are small, need outside investment as they restructure their balance sheets. We do not need to wait to act on the lessons we have learnt about the importance of air cargo in maintaining our connectedness. Therefore, we support ongoing efforts towards liberalisation agreements for airline investment and cargo.

As the pace of technological change increases within the global aviation system, there is a corresponding need for a more risk-informed approach to the design and development of Standards and Recommended Practices. New Zealand emphasises the value of SARPs that are flexible and can be readily applied to innovative technologies as they emerge, while maintaining high levels of safety and security. We also

emphasise the need to be cognisant of the varying capabilities of countries and territories to implement SARPs, and strongly support greater technical cooperation to strengthen the global regulatory system.

As we approach 120 years of fixed-wing flight, we can reflect on what we have achieved together in aviation, and through this forum. Together, we must keep our eye on the future. Cooperation will underpin our success. This is why New Zealand supports the substantive participation and attendance of all active members of the international aviation community in ICAO forums. It is also important that all relevant authorities can benefit from the timely exchange of information via ICAO. This is imperative for international aviation safety, and the safety of all people that participate in international air travel.

President of the Council, thank you for this opportunity to emphasise the importance New Zealand places on global aviation cooperation.

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