

Assembly - 39th Session
Plenary
Statement by H.E. Arkhom Termpittaypaisith,
Minister of Transport of Thailand

Mr. President,
Madam Secretary General,
Your Excellencies Ministers
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address the thirty-ninth session of the ICAO Assembly today. As the Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada, the President of the Council and the Secretary-General for a very warm hospitality. I am really delighted with the friendly atmosphere among all Member States and participants gathering here to show our further commitment and efforts for strengthening and promoting the sustainable growth of the global civil aviation system, as stated in the Organization's vision.

Civil aviation plays a crucial part in the economic and social development of Thailand. Today, the air transport industry in Thailand is growing more rapidly than originally planned. This is due to the number of tourists and travelers coming to Thailand. Also as part of global supply chains, large volumes of cargoes and parcels are using Thailand as a distribution center. These developments reflect the advantages of having a good infrastructure, highly qualified people, and safety practices that meet international standards and recommended practices.

We also have our challenges. The challenges are to resolve a Significant Safety Concern or SSC related to Air Operator Certificates and to recover US FAA Category 1. The Thai Government is fully committed to addressing these challenges. We have already restructured our safety oversight arrangement by separating the regulator from the service provider, and greatly strengthen the safety and reliability of Thailand's airline industry. The Corrective Actions Plans fully addressed by ICAO will lead to resolve the SSC within the next 12 months. To this end, Thailand also aims to achieve an effective implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) above 60% and have a fully capable safety oversight system in place.

Mr. President,

For the medium to long term sustainability plan, the newly established CAAT would enhance its overall safety oversight capacity. New staff has been recruited to ensure technical and operational sufficiency and be commensurate with Thailand's activity scale as well as improved competency at the highest standards. The comprehensive training programmes have been already developed and all staff has been fully trained. The new Civil Aviation Act is now also being drafted using the ICAO Model primary legislation, with provision of mechanism to allow speedy legislative process of ICAO SARPS adoption.

In order to support the global efforts in reducing emission from international air transport, Thailand is encouraging all Member States to support the Global Market-Based Measure (GMBM). In this regard, Thailand is fully committed to join on the basis of voluntary participation for its pilot phase in 2021. And as aviation security is one of the most vital elements of the international civil aviation system, Thailand is now preparing for ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme or USAP in next year.

Finally, I would like to highlight that Thailand strongly supports Member States to ratify the 1999 Montreal Convention. We are now promulgating a national law to implement this Convention. Immediately after it enters into force, Thailand will submit the instrument of accession to ICAO, expected within the first quarter of next year.

Mr. President,

On this occasion, Thailand would like to express its appreciation for ICAO, both to the Headquarters in Montreal and the Regional Office in Bangkok, along with the EU, EASA, FAA, Japan and all friends and partners who have worked with and supported us. We are delighted to be a part of the international aviation community, and strongly believe that friendship and cooperation among us will become ever stronger in the years ahead. The SSC has been catalyst for creating and enhancing the safety oversight system in Thailand; and for this we are grateful. Please be assured that Thailand's aviation system will come back and ready to roar in the near future.

Thank you very much for your attention.