



ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH

(Presented by Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Mafidur Rahman, Chairman,
Civil Authority of Bangladesh on behalf of Bangladesh)

Excellency Dr. Olumuyiwa Bernard Aliu, the President of the Council,
Honourable Madam Secretary-General, Dr. Fang Liu
Mr. President of this 40th ICAO Assembly,
ICAO Regional Directors,
Heads of Delegation, delegations of invited organizations

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I offer my sincere most appreciation to allow me to speak a few words on this 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly. It is an honour for Bangladesh to address this 40th Session on the eve of the ICAO's 75th anniversary.

1.2 As a Member State of ICAO, Bangladesh has sincerely carried out its obligations under the Convention and for the implementation the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) detailed in ICAO Annexes to the Chicago Convention. Moreover, Bangladesh is committed to the five Strategic Objectives and the global plans in aviation safety, air navigation and aviation security.

1.3 Bangladesh participates very actively at both regional and international levels, attending important events and meetings that consolidate the leadership achieved and promoting broader cooperation and relations with other States and aviation organizations. In this context, a number of air transport agreements, memorandums and other legal instruments have been signed.

1.4 Bangladesh will proudly host the 57th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation for the Asia and Pacific Region (DGCA57), which is scheduled to take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 22-26 November 2020. I would like to mention here that in 2020 Bangladesh will also celebrate the 100 years of the Birth Anniversary of our Father of Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

1.5 The 56th DGCA conference adopted the theme topic for the 57th DGCA Conference, **“Promoting ICAO Gender Equality Programme in conjunction with Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative”** which was proposed by Bangladesh to support the objectives of ICAO

Gender Equality Programme and UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

1.6 Bangladesh also supports the three working papers, WP/031 (Status of The ICAO Gender Equality Programme by the Council), WP/392 (Advancing Initiatives that Support Women’s Participation in Aviation by Canada on behalf of Australia and the United Kingdom) and WP/479 (The Experience of the United Arab Emirates in Empowering Women in Aviation).

2. **DISCUSSION – “*Accessibility for Passengers with Disabilities in Aviation*”**

2.1 I would like to refer to the two working papers, WP/346 and WP/322, drawing attention of the Assembly on a very pertinent issue on the accessibility for passengers with disabilities in aviation by IATA and Brazil.

2.2 While Bangladesh supports the views expressed in the two WPs and takes this opportunity to congratulate IATA and Brazil for bringing to the notice of the Assembly, promoting and protecting the rights of the people with Disabilities or Reduced Mobilities, we would like to voice similar concern for this emerging issue.

2.3 In spite of the existing SARPs in ICAO Annex 9, States are using differing National Regulations which are becoming increasingly difficult for the incumbent passengers with disabilities, creating misperception. In the absence of a harmonized policy for the facilitation of such passengers globally, the ICAO’s efforts in harmonizing and bringing in better regulatory practices might be in jeopardy. States with varying degrees of maturity in aviation safety and facilitation have formed regulatory practices which might be in direct conflict with one another.

2.4 Against this backdrop, the IATA core principles could be a wonderful guidance material for the States while developing or modifying the regulations in this area. The United Nations’ Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD) entrusts the States with the responsibility to protect the rights of such persons with disabilities.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 We would like to invite ICAO to recognize this need and in turn urge the States to develop unified regulations for the persons with disabilities so that air travel for such persons become easy and comfortable when they travel between countries. This will also remove operational complexity and alienate unnecessary costs for the airlines.

3.2 Finally, we would like to congratulate the Council of ICAO for the efficient conduct of its business. We foresee a world of peace, friendship and understanding among nations and peoples. We join our hands together in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of ICAO since 1944, the signing of the Chicago Convention.

Long Live ICAO!

Thank you very much!