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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY NEPAL

(Presented by Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai, the Head of the Delegation of Nepal)

Mr. President of the Assembly,
Mr. President of the Council,
Madam Secretary General,
Dignitaries and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Nepali delegation, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate ICAO for completing 75 years of its tireless journey towards safer and better aviation. I feel much honoured to address the 40th Assembly of this global aviation forum being organized during such a historic moment.

Just a month before of this Assembly, Nepal hosted the 56th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation of Asia-Pacific Region in Kathmandu. I believe that the voice of Asia-Pacific Region in the form of conclusions of the Conference will be instrumental to formulate policy and future course of action of ICAO.

On this occasion I reiterate our commitment towards the Articles of Chicago Convention, 1944, its Annexes and guiding principles of ICAO for safe, secure, economic and environmental friendly aviation system around the world. In line with the ICAO guiding principles, Nepal has initiated the institutional reform process for the segregation of regulatory and service provider functions being carried out by Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. Necessary bills to materialize this process have already been drafted and will be submitted to the Parliament very soon.

Mr. President, Nepal possesses a very tough and difficult mountainous terrain where majority of airports are situated. Air transport operation in runway strips with 500-700 meter length served by small twin-engine aeroplane is the lifeline for people living in remote places of the country. To ensure continuous safe operations in these STOL ports is indeed very challenging. Though these operations cannot be compared with main stream air transport operations, we have been able to reduce fatal accident and number of fatalities significantly because of the additionally adopted safety measures.

Nepal has made considerable efforts to improve its safety oversight capability level as required by ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan 2018-2022. On this occasion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to

ICAO and its Asia-Pacific Office, EASA and DGAC France for their continuous assistance and support to strengthen our safety oversight capability.

So as to increase the air passenger growth rate and get benefit from its ample tourism potential, Nepal has focused on the expansion of airport infrastructures which is the need generated by the capacity constraint associated with the limitation of a single international airport in operation. We have initiated the construction of new international airports in Nepal. Among them Gautam Buddha International Airport located at the birth place of Lord Buddha is in the verge of completion whereas Pokhara International Airport, located at the renowned tourist destination of Pokhara valley will be completed by June 2021. Besides these, a new full-fledged international airport with opportunity of future expansion has also been initiated in plain area near the capital city, Kathmandu.

Nepal is blessed by nature with panoramic mountains, amazing flora and fauna and rich cultural and historical heritages. Tourism is a high potential area that can play a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. After the devastating earthquake of 2015, Nepal has put its best effort to overcome the effect of the calamity and renovate the cultural monuments. To boost tourism up, Nepal has declared year 2020 as 'visit Nepal year' and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all dignitaries and distinguished guests to visit Nepal.

I wish all the success of this 40th Session of the Assembly.

Thank you.

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