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**ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION**

**PLENARY**

**Agenda Item 5: Election of Member States to be represented on the Council**

**CANDIDATURE OF THE STATE OF QATAR**

(Presented by the State of Qatar)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper presents information about the contributions of the State of Qatar to the global civil aviation communities with respect to the unlimited support of building a safe, secure and sustainable air transport system world-wide; while ensuring adequate infrastructure, equipment and training are maintained to develop the ever-changing civil aviation industry. Qatar believes that it is well qualified to contribute as a Member State to the Council's work in the challenging years ahead.

*Strategic Objectives:*

This information paper relates to all the Strategic Objectives.

*Financial implications:*

No additional resources required.

*References:*

Doc 7600, *Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Air transport is one of the key drivers of global economic growth. In fact, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimates that there will be over 6.5 billion passengers and the aviation industry will support 103 million jobs and produce \$5.8 trillion in economic activity by 2032. The Air transport industry is one of the primary components of global connectivity. It is a significant enabler of economic prosperity.

1.2 According to the World Economic Forum 2018, Qatar is ranked the second most competitive economy in the Arab region based on their Global Competitiveness Index. Air transport in the State of Qatar has experienced revolutionary developments where the compounded annual growth rate for passenger traffic recorded 12 per cent and for air cargo 16 per cent annually reached an all-time high of over 35 million passengers and 2 million tons of cargo in 2018.

## **2. SUSTAINABLE CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

2.1 The State of Qatar continues to take a leading role in the development of global civil aviation through its Civil Aviation Authority, the state-of-the-art Hamad International Airport and the national carrier Qatar Airways.

2.2 Air transport has provided the State of Qatar with the international air connectivity to prosper in a very competitive global economy. Doha is connected today with over 200 international destinations covering all inhabited continents.

## **3. THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF QATAR**

3.1 The Civil Aviation Authority of the State of Qatar implements the provisions of the State's Civil Aviation Law (15) in accordance with government's mission to develop a safe, effective and sustainable civil aviation system.

3.2 Key Responsibilities:

- Development of regulations and policies related to civil aviation and meteorological services, including implementation, monitoring and re-evaluation.
- Creating and strengthening relationships with international organizations to implement and enforce international conventions and treaties related to civil aviation.
- Implement and enforce the State of Qatar Aviation Safety Plan.
- Full responsibility for air navigation in Qatar and ensuring its compliance with international standards.
- Responsible for maintaining and updating bilateral air transport agreements between Qatar and other countries.
- Aircraft registration, as well as inspection of aircraft to guarantee airworthiness.
- Produce and issue licenses to air transport providers, travel agencies and air cargo as required to conduct business in the State of Qatar
- Proposing charges on operators as necessary
- Full responsibility for the state weather related services including aviation and marine weather and forecasts.

3.3 Key Contribution Areas:

Qatar has made a significant contribution to the international civil aviation community on the following three fronts:

3.3.1 Air Transport

The State of Qatar's strategy is to facilitate accessibility to the country through liberal air transport agreements on a reciprocal basis. In total, the State of Qatar has concluded over 165 bilateral air transport agreements covering over 85 per cent of the global community. Over half of these are "Open Skies" with absolutely no restrictions.

On 4 March 2019, the European Union and the State of Qatar concluded a comprehensive air services agreement allowing Qatari and EU member state airlines unlimited access between each other's territories. The Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement includes provisions on fair competition, transparency, the environment and consumer protections.

### 3.3.2 Air Navigation, Aviation Safety and Security

Qatar has succeeded in promoting safe and secure air navigation for all airlines using its airspace. Following the imposition of the prohibitions by certain neighbouring countries in June 2017, Qatari-registered aircraft are no longer permitted to use air routes over these countries, causing significant detours for flights to and from Qatar. With ICAO's support, Qatar was able to convince the international civil aviation community of the importance of maintaining aviation safety over the Gulf region and recovered access to some international air routes that were closed to Qatari aircraft.

On safety, Qatar has obtained an effective implementation rate of over 91 per cent for the USOAP audit.

According to the official results issued by ICAO in 2017, Qatar is at the forefront of world countries in the application of civil aviation security standards, as it scored 99.10 per cent in applying Annex 17 provisions on safeguarding international civil aviation, which is the most important criterion in the field of security auditing. This indicates the great qualitative leap that Qatar has achieved in the field of aviation security and airports, which in turn enhances its position in this sector globally.

### 3.3.3 Training and Development

Qatar is committed to its strategic vision of developing the human element of the aviation industry through provision of strategy funding and technical support to ICAO and the international air transport community in an effort to achieve alignment through standardization.

The Authority has invested heavily in the training and development of the workforce via joint agreements with key institutions and universities specializing in aviation and air transportation (such as McGill University in Canada and ENAC in France).

Qatar has contributed \$1 million (CAD) to support ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative; this initiative was launched to help ensure better coordination and implementation of standards and recommended practices at the global level regarding the activities of aviation security management and facilities, particularly in the priority areas of safety, air navigation and aviation security.

## 4. **HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

4.1 Hamad International Airport (HIA) was inaugurated in April 2014 to serve as the gateway to the State of Qatar. HIA is strategically located at the crossroads between the Eastern and Western hemispheres. It serves more than 200 destinations across all continents. Roughly 80 per cent of the world's population is within a six-hour flight radius from HIA, positioning the airport as a major gateway to the world.

4.2 The airport has opened a new era for the aviation sector in Qatar and for the region. One of the fastest growing economies in the world, Qatar is currently diversifying its economy away from hydrocarbons, boosting the country's profile as a regional hub for tourism, culture, education, science and research. HIA is fully part of the equation and is actively contributing to Qatar's National Vision 2030.

4.3 HIA is a young and sophisticated airport that was built to accommodate the world's largest aircraft, including the A380. HIA has welcomed over 35 million passengers and recorded more than 222,000 aircraft movements in 2018. Currently, the airport has the capacity to handle 8,700 passengers per hour, more than 30 million passengers annually and is undergoing further expansion to accommodate more than 50 million passengers. HIA's goal is to be one of the most operationally efficient airports in the world, putting the customer at the heart of the airport's strategy.

4.4 To further enhance the passenger experience at the airport, HIA has developed an industry-leading transfer security screening product which resulted in significantly shorter queuing times for passengers. With the airport's introduction of additional transfer gates and minimum connection lanes at security, passengers at HIA are now screened to national standards at the arrival gate directly, ensuring that at least 95 per cent of the airport's transfer passengers queue for under five minutes.

4.5 Since 2010, the average compound and annual growth rate (CAGR) for available seat kilometres (ASKs) at Doha International Airport and later HIA has reached 13 per cent annually. Currently, Hamad International Airport is ranked 11th globally by international ASKs according to published global airline schedule database for 2019.

4.6 HIA is in the final stages of an evaluation program that measures the security and operational benefits of different screening technologies, utilizing new high-tech systems that would allow the airport to provide screening of cabin baggage without the need to segregate electronic devices, and exploring the use of body scanners instead of traditional walk through metal detectors, amongst other developments.

4.7 HIA has been recently classified as a five-star airport by Skytrax, making it one among only five other airports in the world to achieve this prestigious status. The airport is ranked fourth Best Airport in the World by the 2019 Skytrax World Airport Awards. HIA has also won the Best Airport in the Middle East title for five years in a row and Best Staff Service in the Middle East for four years in a row.

## 5. QATAR AIRWAYS

5.1 Qatar Airways is the national airline of the State of Qatar and proud to be one of the youngest and fastest growing airlines to serve six continents. The airline connects more than 160 destinations with a fleet of the latest-generation aircraft, and an unrivalled level of service from its home and hub, the five-star airport, Hamad International Airport in Doha, the State of Qatar.

5.2 Facts about Qatar Airways:

- Established in 1994 and re-launched in 1997
- The airline serves over 160 destinations world-wide
- The total number of aircraft is more than 250
- Oneworld Alliance member since 2013
- The airline is the global launch customer of the state-of-the-art Airbus A350 aircraft
- Qatar Airways is the only airline to win the prestigious Skytrax "World Best Airline" award five times (year 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019).

### 5.3 Safety First

5.3.1 Qatar Airways was the first airline in the world to achieve the IATA Operational Safety Audit certification in 2003 and has successfully renewed this certification every two years since then. The audit was set up to standardise and rationalise several safety and security procedures carried out by individual airlines for code-sharing. Qatar Airways was assessed on flight and ground operations, aircraft engineering, maintenance, operational security, cabin operations and management systems.

5.3.2 Qatar Airways has enhanced its operations with the acquisition of comprehensive aircraft recovery equipment – the first airline in the world to own the complete state-of-the-art kit. There are just 11 complete kits globally, but parts within each kit are owned separately by individual airlines and airports worldwide. The full equipment is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. Qatar’s aircraft recovery kit is transportable and capable of recovering the world’s largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380, in addition to any other aircraft types, from incident sites anywhere in the world.

5.3.3 On another front and as a major initiative to achieve the highest level of flight tracking standards, Qatar Airways has become the first airline to launch GlobalBeacon, a key product solution that provides the airline with global, real-time flight tracking. Today, all of Qatar Airways flights are benefiting from real-time-tracking, which further enhances passenger safety. This initiative by Qatar Airways is well ahead of ICAO’s Global Aeronautical Distress Safety System (GADSS) recommended timeline.

### 5.4 Youngest Fleet

5.4.1 From only four aircraft in 1997, the airline grew to a fleet size of 28 aircraft by the end of 2003 and a milestone 50 by October 2006. Today the airline operates 250 aircraft to more than 160 destinations worldwide. Qatar Airways has one of the industry’s youngest fleets with an average aircraft age of five years.

5.4.2 With the delivery of the Airbus A350 aircraft in December 2014, for which it was the global launch customer, Qatar Airways became the first airline in the world to operate every family of Airbus’ modern airliner portfolio. On 15 January 2015 Qatar Airways deployed its newly-received, world-first, Airbus A350 XWB aircraft, on the Frankfurt route. In 2016, Qatar Airways became the first airline to fly the A350 to three continents.

### 5.5 Global Achievements

5.5.1 As an industry leader in aviation safety, Qatar Airways has demonstrated a strong safety and security performance record. It has achieved 100 per cent compliance with the IATA Operational Safety Audit, verifying its status as one of the world’s safest and most secure airlines.

5.5.2 The airline received a host of awards in 2018, including being named World’s Best Business Class by the 2018 World Airline Awards, managed by international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. The airline was also named Best Business Class Seat, Best Airline in the Middle East, and World’s Best First-Class Airline Lounge.

5.5.3 Qatar’s revolutionary “Qsuite” was named Best Business Class in AirlineRatings’ Airline Excellence Awards 2019. The airline’s renowned dine-on-demand in flight cuisine was also named Best Catering. The airline clinched the Best Inflight Service Award at the 29th Annual TTG Travel Awards 2018. It was also named the Best Middle Eastern/African Airline for the ninth consecutive year at the recent 2018 Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards. In 2019, Qatar Airways was named the Airline of

the Year by Skytrax, and received awards for Best Business Class, Best Business Class Seat, and The Best Airline in the Middle East.

## 6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Qatar has a demonstrated record of exemplary support for international civil aviation, both generally and to ICAO as an institution. Qatar is recognized as one of the most advanced states in the field of aviation. Its national airline and principal airport are each consistently rated among the best in the world. It ranks exceedingly high in ICAO audits. It has had an outsized positive impact on aviation in the region and globally. Qatar believes it can make a significant contribution to finding solutions to the many challenges facing aviation in the years to come. Qatar is eminently qualified to assume the responsibilities of a Council Member.

— END —