

Remarks by the Chairperson - Adoption of the Delhi Declaration

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Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India

Honourable Prime Minister of India, President of Council, Mr Vice Chairperson, honourable.....my colleagues, and Ladies and gentlemen,

India's hosting of the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation is the most inspiring in the history of such Ministerial conferences.

While covering ten key aviation domains, the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi), also known as the Delhi Declaration, is the first-ever declaration to encompass commitments in diverse and broad areas covering the most critical aspects of civil aviation. Let me take this opportunity to summarise key commitments mentioned in the Delhi Declaration.

Firstly, we pledge to support and continue efforts towards realising the Beijing Declaration commitments that have not been fulfilled yet. We also strive to ensure the effective implementation of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), and Global Aviation Security Plan (GASep) and associated regional plans. For aviation safety, we have committed to continue our efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation safety as a key priority, carrying out effective safety oversight and management activities, joining forces to share safety information, fostering a strong and positive safety culture, and striving to achieve the current goals and targets outlined in the Global Aviation Safety Plan.

Colleagues, Air navigation services enhancement is required to significantly boost Air Traffic Management capacity and foster harmonisation in the Asia Pacific region. Towards this objective, we commit to providing resources for modernisation and innovation in Air Navigation Services, in tandem with airport and airline capacity developments, to support recovery and meet future demand for air travel and new entrants. We also commit to sharing best practices, resources, and capabilities in the provision of ANS, including Search and Rescue, MET, and ATFM, through regional cooperation and enhanced coordination.

This declaration incorporates aviation security into its priority initiatives. We commit to continuing efforts and cooperation to uphold aviation security as a critical priority, carry out effective aviation security oversight, and enhance compliance with relevant ICAO aviation security and security-related Standards. We also commit to the seamless implementation of ICAO Annex 9 (Facilitation) and the ICAO's Facilitation Programme.

Dear esteemed delegates, recognising that gender equality is a human rights issue and a catalyst for sustainable development and prosperity, we, therefore, affirm our commitment to promoting and encouraging the aviation sector to take the necessary measures to strengthen gender equality by supporting policies and establishing, developing, and improving strategies and programmes to further women's careers within the aviation sector.

We also commit to providing Civil Aviation Authorities/Administrations in the Region with the necessary autonomy and powers, sustainable sources of funding and resources to carry out effective safety and security oversight and regulation of the aviation industry and encourage Asia and Pacific States/Administrations to continue their efforts and work together to reduce emissions and other environmental impacts of aviation.

Last but not least, we encourage Asia and Pacific States to consider ratifying the Amendments to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and also request that Asia and Pacific States consider becoming parties to the international air law treaties that they have not yet ratified.

In conclusion, the Delhi Declaration is historic and path-breaking, having reached a consensus on all ten key aviation areas proposed in the declaration. The Delhi Declaration focuses on charting our path towards a safe, secure, efficient and sustainable Asia and Pacific future. With this, on behalf of all my fellow Asia Pacific colleagues, I declare that the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation adopts the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi).

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