

Remarks by the Vice Chairperson - Adoption of the Delhi Declaration

Hon. Mr. Viliame Rogoibulu Gavoka

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Fiji

Honourable Prime Minister of India, President of Council, Mr Chairperson, honourable colleagues, distinguished and Ladies and gentlemen,

We, the Ministers from the Asia and Pacific States responsible for Civil Aviation, are meeting on the momentous occasion of the Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation and the 80th anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as Chicago Convention, to unanimously agree on Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi). This event, jointly organised by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and India to reaffirm its obligations as the Contracting States to the Chicago Convention, has now reached its end.

If you recall, the first Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation, held in 2018 in Beijing, China, concurred on the Beijing Declaration. Beijing declaration paved the way for us to work together to achieve our commitments and take necessary action to overcome the challenges of aviation jointly.

While some of the Beijing Declaration commitments have had a reasonable level of achievement, for instance, 'Certification of all aerodromes used for international operations' where 91.83 per cent of aerodromes used for international operations have been certified as of 21 November 2023, the majority of the targets related to safety and air navigation fall short of the expectations, attributable mainly to the devastating COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, which forced the global civil aviation into a deep crisis

Now, the Beijing Declaration will be superseded by the Delhi Declaration. Nonetheless, the Delhi Declaration will reaffirm the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration. Additionally, this Conference provides the setting at a political level for the Asia and Pacific States to declare the vision of the region to manage aviation safety towards a resilient and dynamic Asia Pacific air transport system post-pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Conference has resulted in some takeaways and new way forward commitments covering various pressing aviation challenges, including aviation safety and security, air navigation services, facilitation, gender equality, environmental protection, resourcing for Civil Aviation, International Air Law Treaties and many others. Without your commitment and support, this achievement would not have been possible. Taking this opportunity, I now invite our Chairperson to kindly share the key outcomes of this Conference and declare the adoption of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi).

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