

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
MINISTER / HEAD OF DELEGATION
STATEMENT

Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration
on Civil Aviation (Delhi)
11-12 September 2024

Honourable Chairperson of the Conference,
Honourable Vice Chairperson of the Conference,
President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization
(ICAO),
ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Director,
Honourable Ministers,
Senior Government Officials,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, it is my great pleasure to join this Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, here in New Delhi, India. First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the ICAO APAC Regional Office and congratulate the Government of India for hosting this momentous event. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference Preparation Working Group for their diligent efforts on the Ministerial Declaration. These efforts are evident in the successful preparation of this Conference.

1. **Transportation** is a key contributor to sustainable economic and social development. A well-developed and robust transportation system generates travel demand and encourages tourism growth. Transportation is an essential component of the tourism industry as it can only operate with a functioning transportation system.

2. **With the containment of COVID-19** and the relaxation of control measures and travel restrictions starting in early 2022, the number of tourist arrivals has once again shown a positive increasing trend, rising from 35,701 individuals in 2022 to 120,059 individuals in 2023. The upturn in the number of arrivals by air in 2023 is attributed to a gradual recovery from the COVID-19 situation.
3. **To reap the economic benefits of aviation** and encourage the mobility of people, it is fundamental for Brunei Darussalam to build public confidence by ensuring safer and more secure flights. This Conference provides a platform for Brunei Darussalam and other States to work towards the harmonized implementation of the targets and priorities in areas of aviation safety and air navigation services.
4. Allow me to share our national initiatives, efforts, and challenges on implementing the targets and priorities.
 - a. Since the functional separation between regulatory and service provider, the Brunei Department of Civil Aviation is currently amending its national legislation, consistent with the requirements contained in the Convention on International Civil Aviation, with aims to strengthen effective implementation of its safety and security oversight system as well as to enable the enforcement of regulations through relevant authorities or agencies.

Brunei Darussalam, as a member of the ICAO remains committed to ensure that aviation industries fully comply with the safety and security requirements in accordance with the ICAO Standard and

Recommended Practices (SARPs), Brunei Aviation Requirements (BARs) and National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP) where they are continuously monitored and regulated by the authority for the purpose of safe and secure air transport operations.

In support to ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP), Brunei Darussalam strive to achieve the current GASP/GASeP goals, in particular on improving our Effective Implementation (EI) of the critical elements (CEs) scores to above the current global average for both safety/security oversight system.

- b. Next, let me share some ongoing projects - The Airfield Rehabilitation Project Phase 2 at Brunei International Airport. As a continuation of Phase 1, completed in 2017, Phase 2 aims to provide access to all types of aircraft to the entire Brunei International Airport movement area, especially wide-body cargo aircraft. The project began in November 2023 and is targeted for completion on 31 October 2025.
- c. In the area of **Air Navigation Services**, we have embarked on implementing initiatives to fulfil the country's commitment to complying with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Beijing Declaration to implement Airspace Design-Performance Based Navigation (PBN) for improved safety, efficiency, and competence.

- d. Lastly, we are **transitioning from an Aeronautical Information System (AIS) to an Aeronautical Information Management (AIM)** system to comply with the Global/Regional Air Navigation Plan (G/RANP) by ICAO, thus improving the quality, security, efficiency, and consistency in data exchange.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In summary, the gaps for regional targets and priorities have been identified, and Brunei Darussalam will work towards implementing the aforementioned priorities. Being a small state with limited resources in aviation, Brunei Darussalam anticipates challenges in achieving these targets. Nevertheless, we will continuously support this Declaration and learn best practices from other States. Brunei Darussalam assures that the realization of harmonized implementation will be made possible by ICAO's 'No-Country-Left-Behind (NCLB)' Initiative.
6. I am certain that this Conference will bring about positive changes, stronger cooperation, coordinated efforts, and close collaboration amongst APAC States and aviation industries. In closing, I wish for a fruitful outcome and utmost success for this Conference.

Thank you.