



## **MINISTER *for* TRANSPORT & CIVIL AVIATION**

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### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ICAO SECOND ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION**

**BHARAT MANDAPAM, IECC, NEW DELHI,**

**11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Thank you Master of Ceremony, for the warm introduction.

On behalf of the people and Government of Papua New Guinea, and my Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, let me thank the Government of India, for hosting this 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of;

Chairperson of the Conference: Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation

Vice Chairperson of the Conference: Honourable Mr. Viliame Rogoibuli Gavoka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation

President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano

Fellow Ministers, distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to attend this Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, and privileged to be accorded the opportunity, to deliver my statement.

Papua New Guinea recognizes the importance of having in place, robust safety and security systems in aviation. Effective and efficient aviation safety and security are key enablers, for safe and secure aviation systems, to support the industry which is significantly important for social and economic development of any nation, through people-to-people connectivity. As a Signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Papua New Guinea has been focusing its efforts on the continuous improvement of civil aviation safety and security outcomes, to ensure compliance with the mandatory ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

**Papua New Guinea is committed to the Beijing Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation. We reaffirm our unwavering dedication to the commitments set out in the Beijing Declaration.**

### **Aviation Safety**

#### *(i) Enhancement of safety oversight capability – USOAP EI Score*

Papua New Guinea has achieved its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Effective Implementation of 60.65%, in line with the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2020-2022 Target of 60%. Work is continuing to rectify the deficiencies identified in the recent ICAO USOAP Audit in 2023, to improve further, as we work towards the GASP 2023-2025 Targets.

#### *(ii) Implementation of an effective State Safety Programme (SSP)*

In conjunction with the 2023 ICAO USOAP Audit outcome, Papua New Guinea is working on the deficient areas in its State Safety Programme Foundation, with the aim to develop its State Safety Program, and its National Aviation Safety Plan by end of this year. In addition, the National Aviation Policy under formulation is set to be endorsed by Government, for launching before the end of this year.

#### *(iii) Significant Safety Concerns under USOAP CMA*

Papua New Guinea, currently does not have a Significant Safety Concern.

#### *(iv) Certification of aerodromes used for international operations*

The Papua New Guinea certification of international aerodromes has been raised to a global and regional standard.

(v) *National Development Plans supported by robust Civil Aviation Master Plan*

Aviation Safety and Security is a priority of the PNG Government, and it is reflected in PNG's Development Plan, and Corporate Plans of Aviation Agencies, for alignment and implementation. The development of Civil Aviation sector in PNG, is captured in the Strategic Priority Area 02 of the Medium-Term Development Plan IV, 2023 - 2027, the Government approved significant investments for the Aviation Sector, including the upgrade of International Airports Security System, as a Direct Intervention Program, to be delivered before 2027.

PNG is an active participant in regional collaboration, through the Regional Aviation Safety Group, the Asia and Pacific (APAC) Regional Office, APAC Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Pacific Aviation Safety Office, Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Work Group, Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Groups, Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Team, ICAO Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme South East Asia (COSCAP SEA), ICAO Cooperative Aviation Security Programme Asia Pacific (CASP – AP), and other safety meetings/conferences, to collaborate on aviation safety and security.

**Air Navigation Services**

PNG is initiating arrangements on the transition from Aeronautical Information Service (AIS) to Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) System. We have commenced collaboration with the State of Australia to understand its transition process and lessons learned, to guide PNG's transition.

We have achieved 100% target on our Performance Based Navigation Implementation, as per the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly 2017 target, and continues to maintain this level.

We are an active member of the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), as well as the World Meteorological Organization.

## **Accident Investigation**

PNG has a stand-alone Accident Investigation Commission, whose principal purpose is to determine the circumstances and causes of accidents and incidents with a view to avoid similar occurrences in the future.

## **Human Resource Development**

We remain committed to our human resource development, to ensure our regulatory personnel, including aviation Inspectors and air navigation personnel are adequately trained to meet the changes, and growth in the aviation space. Efforts are being made to establish the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals, through technical and bilateral cooperation with other APAC Member States.

## **Regional Engagement/Priorities**

With the forecast of higher growth rates in passenger and freight demand in the Asia and Pacific Region, it is critical for States/Administrations and the aviation industry to continue to enable a safe, secure, efficient and a more resilient aviation sector, whilst we embrace the growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen, PNG recognises the importance of collaboration at the regional level, and reaffirms its commitment to the Declaration of Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (Delhi).

- (i) *Pacific Regional Aviation Strategy 2022 - 2032– and PNG’s support to the Strategy*

The priorities for the Pacific Region can be realised through commitments made during this Conference, which include; Regional Cooperation & Engagement; Aviation Capability Development; Sustainable Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Aviation Safety & Security; and Harmonised Regulatory Systems.

- (ii) *PASO*

Papua New Guinea will continue to support priorities of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), which encompasses the continuous improvement of aviation safety and security services, harmonising regulatory frameworks, ongoing development of human capital, and regional advocacy and engagement.

*(iii) ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Approach*

We acknowledge ICAO's approach in establishing the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Office for the Asia and Pacific Region, and I reaffirm PNG's collaboration and participation in ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office Work Plans and Activities.

*(iv) 58<sup>th</sup> Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation Priorities for Papua New Guinea*

PNG has commenced initial work on some of the Priorities from the 58<sup>th</sup> Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation. The development of the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals; Efforts to promote the production and distribution of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in the Asia and Pacific Region, particularly on the production and supply of available feedstock; and the ratification of International Air Laws/ Treaties, are priorities which the PNG aviation sub-sector is pursuing.

These Priorities are being captured in the formulation of the PNG Transport Sector Plan - Medium Term Transport Plan 3, due for launching before the end of this year.

The State of Papua New Guinea, attests to the challenges that the other States are faced with, especially the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and I am confident that the Adoption of the Delhi Declaration, will enhance the level of collaboration and partnership, in our efforts towards achieving the sustainable growth of the global civil aviation systems.

We can leverage on the initiatives offered by ICAO, including those offered by our development partners, as well as through bilateral partnership and friendship amongst respective Member States.

**Conclusion**

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. To conclude, Papua New Guinea, like many other states face great challenges, modernization and re-fleeting of our national flag carrier (Air Niugini), to acquire low carbon and fuel-efficient aircrafts,

Growing concerns on cyber security, shortage of aviation skilled personnel and aging workforce, demand for new airport infrastructure to accommodate increased passenger travel are some concerns that require significant capital investments.

However, there are opportunities out there with partners such as ICAO, and other member states, who stand ready to assist each other, I am confident that many of our challenges, especially from small developing nations who rely heavily on aviation as their most important means of transport connectivity, can be resolved through regional collaborative dialogue, as we continue to pursue continuous improvement and achievement in international civil aviation.

I commend the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Government of India, for hosting this second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, and strongly believe that the outcomes of this conference will surely chart our way forward with favourable outcomes.

I thank you, and wish you all a successful Conference.

Thank you.

**HON. WALTER. D. SCHNAUBELT, MP**  
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & CIVIL AVIATION