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ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY URUGUAY

(Presented by Uruguay)

[Mr. President,

On the occasion of the 39th Session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Delegation of Uruguay extends its greetings and offers the assurances of its highest consideration to the President of the Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, and presents this statement for publication.]

At this, the thirty-ninth Assembly, the Delegation of Uruguay wishes to reaffirm its strong and unequivocal commitment to the principles underlying the strategic aims of the Organization, the objectives stated in the Chicago Convention of 1944, in its technical Annexes, the resolutions of the Assembly, and the documents of the Council.

As a global forum for all matters related to international civil aviation, ICAO promotes adherence to principles which comprise fundamental concepts in order to ensure the development of air transport in an orderly, efficient, economical, and sustainable manner.

Uruguay is deeply committed to the principle of multilateralism, which is one of the foundational pillars of its foreign policy. Our country's commitment to this principle is rooted in the conviction that multilateral bodies constitute the main means of obtaining the guarantees necessary for defending States' rights and legitimate interests in the international sphere.

In the context of the new challenges of the 21st century, our country maintains a firm and renewed commitment to multilateralism and continues to participate actively in the United Nations system, certain that, in order to face these challenges, it is essential to strengthen cooperation and understanding among all nations, on the basis of equality.

In a regional context, and in the context of civil aviation, we would like to highlight the signing of the Multilateral Free Skies Agreement by the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) Member States, as well as the Agreement on Sub-Regional Air Services signed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

We are pleased to note ICAO's No Country Left Behind campaign, which addresses vital issues such as safety by assisting States with the implementation of the Organization's Standards and

¹Spanish version provided by Uruguay

Recommended Practices. Also noteworthy are the cooperation, technical assistance, and training programmes promoted by ICAO to enable States to foster sustainable prosperity both locally and regionally, all of which will benefit greater global connectivity. We view these efforts as a programme of solidarity with countries which, for a variety of reasons, do not have the conditions necessary for facilitating access to the transfer of technology or different tools enabling their development, but which have the firm resolve to honour their commitments to the international community.

Aviation stimulates employment, trade, tourism, and other aspects of national, regional, and international economic development, which emphasizes the value of the tools and services which ICAO provides to assist with the identification of aviation deficiencies and the finding of mechanisms for risk assessment, innovation, and cybersecurity.

Uruguay believes in protecting the fundamental pillars of the international civil aviation system, based on concord, the amicable approach with which global issues must be addressed, taking into account the different circumstances of each State, harmonizing world levels so that all States have access to the socio-economic benefits of prosperous and safe air transport.

Uruguay confirms its confidence in the excellence of the work done by ICAO's various bodies, highlighted many times, and recently, the organization of the High-Level Meeting on a Global Market-Based Measure Scheme, by reason of which it is desirable to find a balance taking into account the principles of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, especially that of common but differentiated responsibilities and corresponding capabilities based on national circumstances. These principles are reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement of 2015, aimed at providing a response to the pressing issue of climate change, also taking into account the repercussions of the measures adopted to tackle the matter.

Climate change is a problem for all humanity. It is a threat which the human race must overcome. Uruguay recognizes the challenge and is rising to it responsibly and consistently, both on the international and the domestic planes, as evidenced by the approval of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the recent Paris Agreement of 2015 already signed by Uruguay, and issuing from the Conference of the Parties (COP/21) held in November 2015, which presented tentative nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Uruguay has a National Climate Change Response Plan, the basic principles of which are sustainable development, decentralization and subsidiarity, precaution and prevention, fairness and solidarity, participation and consensus, coordination and cooperation, and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Another aspect of ICAO worth underscoring is the continuity of multilingualism within the organization. In a nutshell, multilingualism helps to ensure transparency in the organization's actions, fluid communication, and an environment conducive to understanding among States.

As regards safety, one of the Organization's strategic objectives, we must bear in mind that acts of unlawful interference in civil aviation have become an obstacle to its safe and orderly development. This is also the case of other kinds of unlawful conduct, such as the use of aircraft as weapons of destruction, the use of surface-to-air missile systems, the use of improvised explosive devices, the unlawful seizure of aircraft, and attacks on aviation facilities. All this weakens confidence in the security of international civil aviation.

Uruguay reiterates its most forceful condemnation of all threats, offences, and any acts which undermine confidence in the security of international civil aviation, threaten lives, and threaten the physical integrity of people on board and on the ground.

Consequently, we reiterate the need for ICAO to facilitate and coordinate technical assistance and support for States which need to improve their oversight of aviation security and airport security.

With regard to the economic regulation of international air transport, ICAO's role is fundamental, as are the activities aimed at facilitating and supporting the liberalization process. Our country is, along with other Latin American States, a pioneer in the negotiation and signing of open skies bilateral agreements with countries in Europe, Asia, South America, Central America, and North America.

At the 39th Session of this great Assembly, Uruguay is running for a seat on the Council of ICAO for the 2016-2019 period, in accordance with the Rotation Group Agreement of which it is a part, along with the Republic of Chile and the Republic of Paraguay, corresponding to Part III. For this reason, it asks all States for the support necessary for obtaining the votes which will allow us to contribute our efforts and work to international civil aviation, defending the guiding principles of the Organization.

Finally, Uruguay wishes to emphasize how important it is for ICAO to continue exercising its leadership role in all areas of international civil aviation, and asks that the Council and all the States Party to this Organization do their utmost to support this objective.

Thank you very much.

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