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ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY SAMOA

(Presented by Samoa)

President of the ICAO Assembly
President of the ICAO Council
Secretary General of ICAO
Distinguished Delegates and Observers
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my Government and the people of Samoa, I extend warm greetings to this eminent gathering of the 39th ICAO General Assembly, convened here in this lovely city of Montreal. Truly, stories of this magnificent city do not do justice to its actual beauty, scenery and the warm hospitality of its people.

As Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, it is my humble duty to relay and voice my Government's support of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continuing endeavors to make global international aviation a safe, secure and environmentally friendly industry. ICAO's leadership, foresight, action plans and forged partnerships have certainly advanced global aviation safety and security through tried and tested initiatives, policies, standards and practices.

This is aptly demonstrated by ICAO's "No Country Left Behind or NCLB" initiative, where its positive effect is appreciated by resource constraint Small Island States of the Pacific such as Samoa, in our efforts to implement ICAO "Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)". With Samoa very much dependent on trade and tourism related revenues, safe, secure and reliable air transport assumes a significant and crucial role our country's economic development.

With no or limited natural resources, Pacific Small Island States struggle to comply at the best of times with ICAO SARPs. However, thanks to all our Developmental Donor Partners, Samoa has been assisted in the improvements of its aviation and airport safety and security equipment, infrastructures and human capacity development.

The World Bank's "Pacific Aviation Investment Program or PAIP" is one such donor initiative that is benefiting Samoa at present. Other Pacific Island States as well as our PASO are benefiting from the PAIP, with the program likely to continue over the next 2 to 3 years. Samoa is in support of the continuation of combined ICAO and PASO interactions through capacity building and technical and

knowledge sharing. We urge ICAO to support Pacific Small Island States in the implementation of their State Safety Programs, State Performance Based Navigation Plans and gap benchmarking their State Aviation Safety Block Upgrades initiatives.

In conclusion, the UN Small Island Development States (SIDS) meeting that took place in Samoa in September 2014 was a resounding success for Climate Change mitigation initiatives for our vulnerable Pacific Small Island States. A lot has happened with Climate Change since the last ICAO Assembly in 2013. As a result of the UN SIDS meeting in my country, a SIDS Accelerated Modality of Actions (SAMOA) pathway to mitigate Climate Change has been mapped out and plans are in place for a follow up meeting in December 2016 in Samoa.

In terms of aviation emissions, Samoa is concerned with the use of “Gross National Income (GNI)” per capita as a criterion to phase in States for their Carbon Market Based Measures (CMBM). We believe the use of GNI per Capita and other per capita criteria such as Emissions per Capita or Revenue Tonne-Kilometre (RTK) per Capita for differentiation would unfairly penalize Small Island Developing States (SIDS) because of their small population size. It unfairly skews and inflates the carbon scale of SIDS’s small populations even though they may have smaller aviation sectors. This results in a disproportionately heavier burden on SIDS, who relies heavily on international aviation as an important channel for the supply of resources and as the main driver for trade and tourism to support the country’s economy. In this regard, Samoa does not support the use of GNI per Capita and any per capita metric for purposes of differentiation, and strongly advocates an alternative based on the use of Revenue Tonne-Kilometre (RTK) Metric.

Mr. President, this is my first ICAO Assembly and I thank you for inviting Samoa to attend. I pray that our Heavenly Father will watch over and guide the deliberations of this Assembly. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of my Delegation to express our sincere appreciation to the people and city of Montreal, for continuing to host our ICAO Headquarters and our triennial Assembly.

God bless.

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