



## **ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

#### **Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States**

#### **STATEMENT BY AIR VICE MARSHAL MD MOSTAFA MAHMOOD SIDDIQ CHAIRMAN, CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF BANGLADESH**

(Presented by Bangladesh)

President of the Assembly,  
President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,  
Secretary-General of the ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,  
Distinguished Delegates,

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I am honoured to address the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly. I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to ICAO for organizing this important Assembly and for its continued leadership in guiding the global aviation community toward a safe, secure, and sustainable future. As a member State of ICAO, Bangladesh is fully committed to Safe, Secure and Sustainable Aviation in the Asia Pacific Region.

1.2 Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to the principles and objectives of the Chicago Convention and the Strategic Objectives of ICAO. As a growing aviation market in South Asia, Bangladesh recognizes the critical importance of efficient oversight, seamless facilitation, and strengthened cybersecurity in support of safe and secure air transport.

#### **2. TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES IN BANGLADESH'S CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR**

2.1 Bangladesh has undertaken transformative initiatives in its civil aviation sector to align with ICAO's Strategic Objectives and the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative. The Government remains strongly committed to the sustainable development of aviation as a key driver of economic growth and connectivity.

2.2 Bangladesh firmly believes that international and regional cooperation has been instrumental in shaping the progress of its civil aviation industry. In pursuit of becoming a regional aviation hub, the country has launched major development projects. Notable achievements include:

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Major upgrades, including the construction of the Third Terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) and modernization of other international and domestic airports, significantly boosting passenger and cargo capacity.
- **Modernized Air Navigation Services:** Deployment of advanced CNS/ATM systems to support safe, efficient, and seamless air traffic management within the Dhaka FIR.
- **Implementation of SMS and SSP:** Ongoing implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) and establishment of the Safety Management System (SMS), aligned with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Bangladesh continues to strengthen its technical and institutional capacity through the Civil Aviation Training Academy, a Gold Member of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme, which is also progressing toward the Centre of Excellence. In support of the ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has undertaken significant recruitment of young professionals, including aviation safety and security inspectors, as well as technical and support staff. This effort is part of a broader initiative to fill over 2,500 newly created positions to ensure effective safety and security oversight.

### 3. **RATIFICATION OF THE 2016 PROTOCOLS TO ARTICLES 50(A) AND 56 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION**

3.1 On 12 June 2023, Bangladesh formally deposited the instrument of ratification for the 2016 Protocols amending Article 50(a) and Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. This ratification reflects Bangladesh's strong commitment to enhancing the representativeness and inclusiveness of ICAO's governing bodies—namely the Council and the Air Navigation Commission—by supporting a more balanced and equitable participation of Member States in global aviation decision-making processes.

### 4. **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & COLLABORATION**

4.1 Bangladesh takes pride in its active and constructive engagement with ICAO at both regional and international levels. We regularly participate in key meetings and events, fostering broader cooperation and strengthening relations with Member States and aviation organizations. Bangladesh has consistently contributed to the work of various ICAO Working Groups, Subgroups, and Task Forces.

4.2 We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the principles of ICAO and to advancing regional and global cooperation in civil aviation. In 2023, Bangladesh had the honour of hosting the 58th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the Asia-Pacific Region in Dhaka. The conference focused on the theme: "Promoting ICAO Gender Equality Programme in Conjunction with the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) Initiative." We believe that investing in the aviation workforce—while promoting gender equality and women's empowerment—is essential. The next generation must be equipped with the skills to innovate and meet the future challenges of the global aviation industry.

4.3 Bangladesh also served as Chair of the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) for the Asia-Pacific Region from 2019 to 2022. Through this leadership role, we supported regional efforts that contributed significantly to the effective containment of the COVID-19 pandemic within the aviation sector.

4.4 Additionally, Bangladesh continues to enhance international cooperation through the signing of multiple air services agreements, memoranda of understanding, and other bilateral and multilateral legal instruments.

## 5. **ADVANCING GLOBAL COOPERATION TOWARDS LTAG**

5.1 Climate change is a shared global challenge. Bangladesh is actively working with its air operators and air navigation service providers to implement the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) in line with ICAO's environmental framework.

5.2 The global aviation community must embrace sustainability as an urgent and long-term priority. Bangladesh fully supports international efforts to reduce aviation emissions and promote sustainable air transport. We are committed to working collaboratively with ICAO and Member States to develop a practical, inclusive, and achievable roadmap toward the Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for international aviation.

## 6. **CONCLUSION**

6.1 Bangladesh reaffirms its respect for the principles of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which aim to foster cooperation, friendship, and mutual understanding among nations through civil aviation. In this spirit, I would like to recall the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944:

***“Let us work together so that the air may be used by humanity, to serve humanity.”***

6.2 In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the President of the Assembly, the President of the Council, the Secretary General, and the ICAO Secretariat for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the effective conduct of this session. Bangladesh looks forward to the successful outcomes of this Assembly and to continued collaboration with all Member States toward a safer, more sustainable, and inclusive global aviation system.