



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

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## **ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

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

#### **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

(Presented by Cuba)

Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the Council,  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General,  
Your Excellencies Ministers of Transport and Civil Aviation,  
Heads of Delegations,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to address this Assembly on behalf of the Republic of Cuba. My country, a founding Member State of this Organization since 1944, has always played an active part in the development of international civil aviation. Our history of collaboration reflects a firm commitment to the safety and efficiency of air navigation and the sustainability of air transport.

In the development of international civil aviation, it is imperative for Contracting States to support ICAO's mission and strengthen its authority as the lead organization in the sector. Cuba's resolve in this regard is expressed in its support for the Organization's 2026–2050 Strategic Plan.

Cuba has worked tirelessly to achieve higher levels of safety. Its safety indicators have improved significantly, as evidenced by the higher score obtained in the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), with 92.64% compliance at the last audit. The Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) audits have also yielded positive results.

These achievements have required extra efforts due to the adverse impacts of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States and the application of unilateral coercive measures involving pernicious and harmful actions to obstruct the work of the Cuban Government and State.

In order to increase air connectivity and stimulate tourism, regional integration and trade, and with its flexible policy on the participation of foreign airlines, Cuba has signed bilateral agreements and other air services legal instruments with more than 100 States. It is a signatory to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Air Transport Agreement and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) Memorandum of Understanding on the Liberalization of All-Cargo Air Services.

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<sup>1</sup> Spanish version provided by Cuba

Human capital is one of our main strengths. Cuba has highly professional personnel who participate and collaborate actively in ICAO technical panels, committees and working groups, as well as in the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) and the South American (SAM) Regional Offices.

Cuban women play a significant role in the sector. Our State remains committed to promoting women's advancement, along with gender equality, rights, opportunities and possibilities, which are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic.

In collaboration with industry, actions are being carried out to improve the treatment of persons with disabilities and reduced mobility, and also to guarantee the general comfort of travellers. At the same time, we are improving the assistance plans for aircraft accident victims and their families, and updating and implementing our airport emergency plans.

Our State supports ICAO's goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have submitted an action plan for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in aviation, and in 2023 we joined ICAO's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA). A body has also been set up to monitor and verify CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international civil aviation, demonstrating our commitment to more sustainable aviation.

Distinguished representatives, our meetings over the next days will be intensive. Our hard work should lead to the adoption of resolutions that strengthen the objectives of the Organization and promote the efficient, gradual and orderly development of international air transport, paving the way to a future of equal opportunity for all.

Cuba hopes to be elected to the ICAO Council in Part 3 of the elections, and solemnly declares that, if elected, it will honour its commitments to consolidate the development of international civil aviation in a safe, efficient, sustainable and inclusive manner, on the basis of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, taking due account of the different circumstances of each Member State in pursuit of common solutions and international cooperation, ensuring that no country is left behind.

Thank you very much.

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