



ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

Introduction:

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is honored to address the 42nd ICAO Assembly. We reaffirm our commitment to ICAO's principles and to advancing a safe, secure, and sustainable civil aviation system. For the UAE, aviation is a platform for global collaboration, guided by inclusiveness and the belief that no country should be left behind.

As an active ICAO Council Member, the UAE emphasizes key pillars of strategic engagement, each representing an area where we have made tangible progress and plan to expand our global contributions.

➤ Safety and Emerging Technologies

The UAE is committed to safely integrating emerging technologies, including advanced air mobility, unmanned systems, and AI-assisted navigation. We have developed regulatory frameworks for eVTOL operations, established drone corridors, and deployed AI oversight tools, achieving an EI score above 95% in ICAO compliance.

The UAE also launched a global training initiative for women in aviation and calls on ICAO to advance SARPs for new technologies at ANC-17. As a Council Member, we stand ready to share our data, tools, and regulatory experience to shape aviation's future.

➤ Securing the Aviation Ecosystem: Advancing Security, Facilitation, and Dangerous Goods Oversight

The United Arab Emirates remains firmly committed to strengthening the fundamental pillars of a safe and resilient global aviation system. In aviation security, the UAE continues to lead strategic efforts, serving as Chair of the ICAO Aviation Security (AVSEC) Panel and two key Task Forces focused on governance and enhanced compliance with Annex 17. The UAE has also contributed to the development and global implementation of the second edition of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) while actively supporting AVSEC-related working groups, events, and training missions. Since 2008, the UAE has consistently sent ICAO-certified USAP-CMA auditors and AVSEC instructors to assist Member States in improving their oversight and training systems.

Regarding facilitation, the UAE promotes smooth and secure international travel through its active participation in the ICAO Facilitation Panel. It currently chairs the newly formed Working Group on Facilitation Capacity Building (WGFCB). It contributes to the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), strengthening the effective implementation of Annex 9 standards and supporting global interoperability in identity management.

In the field of dangerous goods, the UAE plays a leading technical role as an active member of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel and currently chairs the dedicated Working Group responsible for the comprehensive restructuring of Annex 18. This effort aims to establish a modern, clear, and harmonized regulatory framework for the safe transportation of hazardous goods by air.

Together, these actions demonstrate the UAE's ongoing commitment to ICAO's strategic goals and its steadfast dedication to a safe, efficient, and globally unified civil aviation system.

➤ **Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence**

Digitalization and AI are transforming aviation. The UAE has long integrated these tools, hosting ICAO summits on blockchain, cybersecurity, and digital transformation, including the "Dubai Declaration on Cybersecurity" and the 2025 Global Implementation Support Symposium.

We also support ICAO's TRIP program through biometric and passenger data systems, strengthening aviation security and facilitation. Looking ahead, the UAE proposes co-leading development of a Global Framework on AI Governance to ensure safe, inclusive, and harmonized adoption, fully aligned with ICAO's No Country Left Behind strategy.

➤ **Environment and Sustainability**

Environmental sustainability is a significant focus of ICAO's efforts and a top priority for the UAE. As the host of the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) in November 2023, the UAE worked with Member States to adopt the Global Framework for Aviation Clean Energy. This success provided a technical plan for increasing the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and clean energy.

To strengthen the connection between domestic implementation and global aviation efforts, the UAE has adopted a three-pronged sustainability strategy.

- Internationally, the UAE has introduced the **Global Sustainable Aviation Marketplace (GSAM)** to operationalize climate finance through ICAO's Finvest Hub and enable participation from fuel producers, investors, regulators, and developing States.
- Domestically, we have implemented national blending targets, feedstock R&D, SAF production incentives, and public-private climate research platforms that align directly with ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG).
- Programmatically, the UAE launched the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Aviation Award**, including a dedicated category for Environmental Protection. This recognizes outstanding contributions to ICAO's environmental goals, promoting both excellence and equity.

The UAE remains dedicated to making environmental progress inclusive, measurable, and fully integrated into ICAO's implementation efforts. As part of the ICAO Council, the UAE supports initiatives to enhance global monitoring and transparency of SAF production and availability, ensuring that all regions can participate in and benefit from this energy transition. Additionally, the UAE is committed to working within the Council to strengthen frameworks that ensure equitable access to SAF, especially for developing countries.

➤ **Sustainable Financing for ICAO**

As ICAO's role expands, the Council must adapt to ensure sustainable delivery capacity. The UAE, through its Council engagement, helps shape long-term financial resilience. The UAE has enhanced ICAO's visibility on global platforms, including at the World Government Summit, and has supported internal capacity-building within the Organization. The GCAA's Accelerator Programme has shared institutional efficiency models with ICAO to improve administrative performance and financial sustainability.

We view financing as a key strategic enabler. The UAE has contributed both in-kind and financially to ICAO's implementation programs. It is prepared to collaborate with the Secretariat and Council on various funding options, including voluntary contributions, investment partnerships, and public-private partnerships.

➤ **Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP)**

The global aviation system depends on the skills, dedication, and resilience of its workforce. The UAE views the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative as essential to ICAO's long-term strategic goals. In May 2024, the UAE and ICAO signed a formal partnership agreement focused on attracting, training, and empowering aviation professionals, especially young people and women, as well as retaining expertise and creating career pathways to ensure knowledge transfer and the sustainability of aviation.

The UAE supports NGAP through sponsored fellowships, university partnerships, technical training, and public awareness campaigns. These programs ensure global access to capacity-building tools.

Aviation serves as a global connector. Strengthening NGAP requires reinforcing the entire system because a well-prepared, inclusive workforce is vital for ensuring global safety, security, and operational continuity. The UAE will continue to invest in human capital development and collaborate with ICAO and Member States to transform NGAP into a practical and impactful global effort.

➤ **International Cooperation and Support to Developing States**

Cooperation is essential for global aviation safety and sustainability. The UAE supports ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative by offering technical assistance, funding over 2,000 fellowships for aviation professionals from developing nations, and working with ICAO regional offices on safety oversight, environmental compliance, and air navigation services. The UAE intends to expand this support through focused implementation partnerships. Additionally, the UAE actively engages in numerous ICAO panels and working groups, providing technical expertise, sharing regulatory best practices, and encouraging collaboration among countries to achieve ICAO's global implementation goals.

Through ICAO, the UAE has helped grow regional cooperation and supported knowledge-sharing platforms that benefit Member States in all regions.

Our partnership with ICAO continues. Whether through GSAM, NGAP, ACT-SAF, or regional collaborations, the UAE will continue contributing strategically, constructively, and fully aligned with ICAO's implementation goals.

In the field of emerging technologies, the UAE remains open to planned collaboration with interested states to jointly promote the safe and inclusive development of aviation, particularly in areas such as AAM, where early cooperation is crucial for long-term harmonization.

➤ **Conclusion**

The United Arab Emirates considers ICAO a key player in global governance, and its importance is expected to keep growing. As aviation addresses environmental, technological, and security challenges, ICAO remains the vital platform for standardizing practices, building trust, and promoting inclusive growth. The UAE is proud to seek re-election to the ICAO Council (Part III) during the 42nd Assembly. Our candidacy is supported by a proven record of meaningful contributions and the trust of our regional group, ACAO.

The UAE will continue to support ICAO with the same clear purpose and proven performance as a Council Member, committed to effective multilateral governance. Our collaboration is based on shared responsibility and a proactive approach. We remain dedicated to expanding our role on the Council to support ICAO's evolving agenda, reflecting the confidence of our partners and the endorsement of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO). **UAE Vision: an ICAO guided by a capable Council that empowers every State, connects every region, and serves every generation.**

Together, through collective effort and enduring partnership, we will ensure that ICAO guides civil aviation into its next chapter, safe, secure, sustainable, and united.

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