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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(Presented by the Dominican Republic)

Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, President of the Council
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General
Ministers and Directors of Civil Aviation,
Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to address this distinguished Assembly on behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic, a founding Member State of the International Civil Aviation Organization. On this occasion, we wish to reaffirm our government's firm recognition of ICAO's principle of "*fostering the development of a strong, economically viable, and affordable civil aviation system that facilitates prosperity and well-being for Member States.*"

We fully believe in ICAO's 2026–2050 Strategic Objectives, which recognize international civil aviation as a catalyst for economic growth, market connectivity, and global prosperity. We are convinced of the essential contribution of air transport to the economic and social development of nations. In our case, this impact is particularly significant, given the relevance of tourism and passenger traffic as the main drivers of our national economy.

In recent years, passenger traffic to our country has shown sustained growth. In 2024 alone, we reached the historic figure of 19 million passengers, consolidating the Dominican Republic among the fastest-growing countries in the world. This increase was accompanied by a rise in air operations, from 116,391 in 2019 to 135,191 in 2024, representing a 16% growth.

This dynamism is also reflected in air connectivity. In the past five years, around 50 bilateral agreements have been signed, positioning the country as the second in air connectivity in Latin America, with 414 destinations in 75 countries. This is in addition to the growth in active routes and airlines—from 878 in 2020 to 1,096 in 2025, operated by 365 airlines. It is worth highlighting that in 2024, 98 new international routes were approved.

¹ English and Spanish versions provided by Dominican Republic.

These achievements are the result of a State vision and an open skies policy, where strategic decisions are taken through the Tourism Cabinet, in coordination with the private sector. Investor confidence in the country's stability and legal certainty is reflected in major projects across the entire national aviation sector.

By the end of 2025, we project surpassing 20 million passengers carried, representing a 30% increase compared to 2019 levels, with an estimated direct and indirect economic contribution to GDP of 17%.

In the field of safety, the Dominican Republic is advancing with the restructuring of the Santo Domingo FIR, including the implementation of UTM airspace management, the upgrading of primary and secondary radars, the installation of new Doppler weather radars, and the implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP).

In the field of Environment, we are enforcing regulations and effective monitoring of carbon emissions from national air operators. Several of our international airports are certified under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme, with an estimated reduction of 9,600 tons of CO₂, in compliance with the CORSIA scheme—reaffirming our commitment to ICAO standards.

We wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Dominican State's commitment to ICAO's strategic objectives, convinced that international cooperation is the path to achieving a safer, more efficient, sustainable, and inclusive aviation system.

Finally, we are honored to invite all delegations to participate in **ICAN 2025**, which will be held next November in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. This will be an excellent opportunity to continue strengthening civil aviation and the development of our peoples.

“Aviation Leaders Have a Date in Paradise.”

Thank you very much.

— END —