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PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

**STATEMENT BY MS SIOBHAN ROUTLEDGE, ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE -
POLICY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, AND HEAD OF THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION**

(Presented by New Zealand)

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

1. On behalf of the New Zealand Government, I would like to thank the presiding officials for the opportunity to speak at the 42nd International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly.
2. In today's rapidly evolving aviation landscape, characterised by technological advancements and global uncertainties, the importance of international aviation cooperation cannot be overstated. Now, more than ever, we rely on the collaborative efforts of the global aviation community and ICAO's pivotal role in ensuring the safety, security, and efficiency of international aviation.
3. New Zealand has undertaken a series of reforms to ensure our aviation regulatory environment is well equipped to keep pace with changing demands. Last year we implemented new aviation legislation which marked a significant step forward in the safety and security of civil aviation. We now have modern legislation aligned with global standards, with updated provisions that ensure we can keep pace with a rapidly changing aviation environment.
4. New Zealand is also reshaping its regulatory environment to support the rapid development and use of advanced aviation technologies, such as drones, electric aircraft, and autonomous systems, while maintaining high safety standards. The Government aims to have a world-class regulatory regime by the end of 2025 that enables rapid iteration and testing of advanced aviation technologies, while maintaining safety.
5. In line with ICAO's environmental goals, New Zealand remains a strong supporter of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and its role in achieving carbon-neutral growth in international aviation. The Civil Aviation Act 2023 aligns New Zealand's aviation framework with the legislative foundation for monitoring and enforcing CORSIA requirements, transitioning from voluntary compliance to mandatory implementation by 2027.

6. CORSIA represents a global response to a global issue. Its effectiveness depends on broad participation and comprehensive global coverage, minimising gaps in participation and offsetting obligations.

7. We must continue to work together to be ready for whatever comes our way in the future. Cooperation will underpin our success. This is why New Zealand supports the substantive participation of all international civil aviation stakeholders in ICAO's technical work. All relevant authorities should be provided the opportunity to contribute to the safety of the global civil aviation community, which benefits everyone involved. Relevant authorities should not be denied timely access to such vital information, nor denied the opportunity to input their own insights and experiences where these can be of value to all. This is imperative for international aviation safety, and the safety of all people that participate in international air travel.

8. New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to reaffirm its role as a partner in the global aviation community and our commitment to working with ICAO to promote safety, sustainability, and innovation across the sector.

9. Thank you for this opportunity to emphasise the importance that New Zealand places on global aviation cooperation.

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