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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY GUYANA

(Presented by Guyana)

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

President of the Assembly, congratulations on your appointment as President of the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly. I am pleased to have witnessed the rapid recovery of the global aviation community under your stewardship. ICAO's commendable efforts from 2022 to present have led to the industry's robust recovery where global passenger traffic has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. According to ICAO, global passenger traffic grew to approximately 4.528 billion passengers in 2024, and the momentum for 2025 remains positive. I am assured that your leadership will put us back on track to meeting the previous projection of there being over 6.4 billion passengers in 2030 in the global air transport network.

Likewise, Guyana has also experienced growth in its aviation industry, and I am pleased to note there has been a complete post-pandemic recovery. As testament to this growth, we have recorded increases in commercial aircraft activity as well as air traffic. The number of registered aircraft on the national registry has increased by an annual average of 5% from 2020 to 2024; international passenger and cargo traffic have grown by an annual rate of 16% and 19%, respectively, in 2024.

Guyana remains committed to ICAO's vision for a safe and secure industry. Within the past 2 years Guyana was audited twice. We were audited under ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit-Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA) Programme in 2024 from which Guyana achieved an overall score of 63.41% in the level of effective implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in eight (8) audit areas. This score was above the global average of 62.4% at the time.

Last month, we were audited under the ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA) which assessed Guyana's aviation security performance via its security compliance and oversight capabilities. Though final audit results are not yet available for the USAP-CMA, preliminary findings indicate favourable results. Guyana remains committed to closing all existing gaps and improving performance in all areas to further the national and global mandate of safe and secure skies.

The Guyana government continues to invest in the upgrade of aviation infrastructure and prioritising optimal resource allocation in air navigation services and airport facilities. We have invested in upgrading weather and meteorological services capabilities, Search and Rescue (SAR) information systems, and PANS Ops capacities. Notably, in 2024, our Civil Aviation Training School (CATS) obtained ICAO Trainair Plus accreditation. This accomplishment validates the quality of education provided by the school, positions Guyana as a regional leader in aviation training and will contribute to capacity building in the industry.

The Government of Guyana's resource allocation towards modernising and improving the aviation system in Guyana also includes a 33.5 million USD investment in building a new arrivals terminal building at our main international airport, the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. The new terminal will be a world class facility which will offer more capacity to better facilitate the growing air traffic as well as allow for increased commercial activities.

Guyana also continues to support ICAO's environmental protection policies and programmes. Notwithstanding Guyana's relatively low carbon emissions footprint in aviation, Guyana has again formally opted to participate in the voluntary phase of CORSIA, currently the First Phase. Even more, Guyana has recently become a global example in producing eligible carbon credits under the CORSIA scheme. Under the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions carbon credit generating programme, Guyana has been issued over 40 million vintage carbon credits during 2022 to 2024. These credits are eligible for use by airlines towards their offsetting target requirements under the CORSIA programme.

We commend ICAO for all its work done thus far in promoting the industry's recovery. Though there is always room for improvement, we believe the industry is on the right path and ICAO has our full support in managing its mandate.

Thank you.

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