



International Civil Aviation Organization

**WORKING PAPER**

A42-WP/638

P/29

22/9/25

(Information paper)

English only

**ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION**

**PLENARY**

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

**STATEMENT BY GERMANY**

(Presented by Germany)

Thank you, President,

Secretary General,

Ministers and State Secretaries,

Esteemed delegates,

It is a great honour for me to address the ICAO Assembly today on behalf of Federal Minister Schnieder, who could not be here.

To begin with, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the work ICAO has done over the past three years. In times of constantly increasing and ever more complex challenges, ICAO is leading by example in strengthening cooperation and dialogue between Member States, thus creating the foundation for trust and stability in international air transport. For more than 80 years, ICAO has been synonymous for vision, technical excellence and the pursuit of continuous improvement. Your indispensable commitment to the development of international standards and guidelines guarantees a safe, secure, efficient and sustainable global air transport system.

Air transport is a key driver of global connectivity. It promotes economic prosperity, cultural exchange and social inclusion. The Federal Republic of Germany recognizes the importance of an open and competitive market. At the same time, we are faced with the task of taking a balanced approach to the economic development of the aviation sector and to measures that open and liberalize the market. In all this, a level playing field is absolutely essential. The Federal Republic of Germany is committed to ensuring that economic development does not come at the expense of social or environmental standards. A fair competitive environment is the basis for strengthening international connectivity.

“Safe Skies. Sustainable Future” is the smart title of this year’s ICAO Assembly.

Germany is advocating sustainability in aviation. To achieve the Long-Term global Aspiration Goals (LTAG), we need a stronger concerted effort. Currently, the most potent measure is the use of Sustainable

Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other aviation cleaner energies. Producers and investors require a reliable framework. The ICAO Global Framework has already set an important course. The Federal Republic of Germany contributes through the PtX Hub by providing aviation trainings and supports countries in developing their own SAF roadmaps.

Ensuring safe and secure flight operations is a common objective and as topical as it was 80 years ago. However, the challenges are slightly different. One example is the integration of new transport modes like unmanned aviation into existing airspace structures. By establishing the Advanced Air Mobility Study Group (AAM-SG), ICAO has laid the foundation for ensuring safe and secure air transport for the future, in an environment that is constantly changing. Dealing with artificial intelligence and flight security data is also new. ICAO is addressing these important issues.

The Federal Republic of Germany is preparing for current and future threats together with the ICAO Member States. New threats, in particular in the field of cyber security, require a continuous development of security measures. That is why we support ICAO's initiatives to enhance the cyber resilience of air transport structures. In an increasingly unstable geopolitical situation, it is also extremely important to protect civil aviation in and above conflict zones. We welcome ICAO's efforts to improve the exchange of information in this field.

All this shows that the Federal Republic of Germany attaches great importance to international cooperation. Given the international nature of these issues it is important that all the relevant stakeholders can cooperate in a constructive environment to further develop technical standards together – regardless of their status under international law.

Before I finish, I would like to take this opportunity to honour ICAO's now 80-year-old set of regulations and the work of the ICAO Council. It is more important than ever that the Member States recognize the significance of the Chicago Convention and the decisions taken by the ICAO Council. Violations of the Chicago Convention pose a threat to security and undermine people's trust in a well-functioning air transport system. The Federal Republic of Germany is committed to complying with global security standards and asks the Assembly to put a focus on further developing resilient air transport systems.

Finally, allow me to reiterate that Germany supports the objectives of ICAO. We have been contributing extensive technical expertise to the ICAO bodies in all areas since 1959. Our unwavering dedication to international civil aviation will continue so that we can advance our common goals, help shape innovative solutions for the future and contribute our extensive experience to the collaboration within ICAO.

Thank you very much.

I wish us all a successful 42nd Assembly.

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