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**ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION**

**PLENARY**

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

**STATEMENT BY ESTONIA**

(Presented by Estonia)

Dear Mr President  
Distinguished Delegates and Observers

It is a privilege to address this Assembly on behalf of Estonia. Firstly, Mr President, please let me humbly congratulate you on the position.

Civil aviation is a vital link between countries and communities, it also represents a framework of trust, safety, and responsibility that we must safeguard together in a rapidly changing world.

For Estonia, aviation has always been fundamental to our resilience and integration with the world. Our open economy is supported by quality air connectivity. That reflects the strong business environment and openness to international investments.

The Chicago Convention remains the cornerstone of international aviation. Its principles of cooperation, sovereignty, and non-interference must guide us as we face both persistent security challenges and new global realities.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, one of the most urgent threats in Baltic Sea region is the continued interference with GNSS signals, /täiendus 23.09/ as well as intentional and unauthorized violation of airspace. These disruptions endanger flight safety, compromise navigation, and put crews and passengers at risk. They must be stopped immediately.

At the same time, we must look to the future and build common vision. Estonia, like the rest of the Europe, has set ambitious climate goals and is committed to reducing transport emissions. This means accelerating the transition to sustainable aviation fuels, investing in new technologies, and exploring digital air traffic management solutions.

Equally important is the rise of unmanned aircraft systems and innovative air mobility. Drones are already transforming logistics, surveillance, and rescue operations. Estonia has become a testing ground for these new technologies, because we believe unmanned aviation can bring real value to society. At the same time we have to bear in mind that innovation goes hand in hand with safety, cybersecurity, and public trust.

Estonia is proud to be an open and efficient country, where progress is achieved through innovation and close cooperation. We believe that these values and best practices can inspire the international community and contribute meaningfully to the work of ICAO. It is necessary that the work of the Council reflects global aviation trends and evolving realities and its guidance must be clear and responsive to both – regional challenges and worldwide developments. Membership of the Council must be reserved only for those who are committed to follow firmly the principles of the Chicago Convention.

Finally, the future and success of international aviation depends on the commitment of all member states here today. We must remember that international aviation can thrive only when the rules and the Chicago Convention are respected by all. Our shared responsibility is to defend this foundation, strengthen cooperation, and ensure that ICAO is led only by states committed to its founding values and vision and not by those who constantly interfere and endanger flight safety.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the three Baltic States according to the Appeal presented to ICAO Secretariat lately, and I respectfully call upon all ICAO member states to exercise wisdom in the election of the Council, bearing in mind that membership of the Council must be reserved only for those who are committed to follow firmly the principles of the Chicago Convention and international law.

Excellencies, let's work together to keep civil aviation safe, sustainable, innovative and united in solidarity.

Thank you for your attention.

Estonian delegation to the ICAO 42nd Assembly, 24 September 2025

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