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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MARSHA COORE LOBBAN
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF JAMAICA TO CANADA AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO ICAO**

(Presented by Jamaica)

“The Power of Partnership and Vision in Unlocking Aviation’s Treasure”

President of the Assembly, **Mr. Nayef bin Ali Al-Abri**,
President of the ICAO Council, **Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano**,
ICAO Secretary General, **Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar**,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Members of the ICAO Council,
Excellencies, Ambassadors and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Government and people of Jamaica extend heartfelt greetings to the participants of this distinguished 42nd Assembly. It is, indeed, an honour and unrivalled privilege to contribute to the ongoing deliberations, at such a defining moment for global aviation.

I commence these remarks with Jamaica’s fitting acknowledgement of the distinguished stewardship of Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano, whose tenure as President of the Council has been characterised by vision and resolve. I also recognise the unwavering dedication of Secretary General, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, whose leadership continues to guide this Organization with clarity of purpose. Together, their service has strengthened ICAO’s foundations, and affirmed its enduring role as aviation’s global steward.

The ICAO 42nd Assembly convenes at a time of extraordinary transition. Our core responsibilities remain centred on the two pillars of aviation safety and security, while ensuring the efficiency of air transport. Simultaneously, however, we must confront the pressing realities of climate change, harness the momentum and benefits of rapid technological innovation, strengthen our resilience against cybersecurity challenges, and ensure inclusive connectivity for all nations.

Aviation has never been a peripheral activity for our nations. To the contrary, it represents the very heartbeat of our economies, and is a cornerstone of our national development. For countries like Jamaica, it continues to be a vital bridge that connects our island to the global community.

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica has been honoured to serve on the ICAO Council for the 2022–2025 triennium. This tenure has afforded us the privilege of contributing actively to ICAO’s mission, while steadfastly representing the interests and priorities of Small Island Developing States and the wider Caribbean.

Throughout this period, Jamaica has championed dialogue on issues central to our collective future, including aviation safety advancement, reducing carbon emissions, and modernising our air navigation systems. With equal fervour, we have emphasised training and capacity-building to strengthen the global aviation workforce in meeting the industry’s evolving challenges with resilience and aptitude.

However, the commonly resonating principle, in all deliberations, was that these priorities must be underpinned by equity. Every State, irrespective of size or circumstance, must have a fair and meaningful opportunity to contribute to, and to benefit from, the global air transport system. Our skies are shared, and genuine progress in aviation can only be realised through a collective commitment to ensure that *no State is left behind*.

As ICAO rightly asserts, we must pursue balanced and practical approaches that uphold the highest international standards, while remaining mindful of the operational realities faced by developing States.

This international framework is reinforced regionally through Jamaica’s continued engagement with entities, such as the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS). By sharing technical expertise and harmonising oversight functions across the region, we reaffirm the truth that safety *anywhere* depends on safety *everywhere*.

Our Colossal Climate Responsibility

As a Small Island Developing State, Jamaica lives daily with the consequences of an inimically changing climate. We are, therefore, seized of the conviction that aviation, while contributing to only a modest share of global emissions, must, nonetheless, be a leader in the transition to net-zero emissions.

Jamaica remains fully committed to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and ICAO’s Long-Term Global Aspirational Goal (LTAG). At the national level, our country continues to pursue measures that directly contribute to reducing emissions, including:

- the phased introduction of Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) to enable more direct routing and efficient fuel burn.
- the ongoing adoption of Continuous Climb and Descent Operations to lower noise and fuel consumption.
- the exploration of renewable energy opportunities in aviation, to reflect Jamaica’s broader efforts to transition to and integrate more sustainable energy sources.

Jamaica recognises that achieving ICAO’s climate goals requires both technological innovation and coordinated international cooperation. We will actively engage available ICAO support mechanisms, such as capacity-building programmes and investment platforms for sustainable aviation fuels, as we reaffirm our commitment to global and national environmental sustainability.

Ongoing Industry Transformation

As we support the transformation of our local, regional and international air transport systems, Jamaica has commenced the development of a Civil Aviation Master Plan (CAMP), which will chart a strategic path to modernising our systems, infrastructure, and workforce capabilities, over the coming decade.

Key initiatives will include:

- Airspace Redesign to optimise efficiency and further align with global standards.
- the Implementation of Trajectory-Based Operations, for a seamless integration with the global air navigation system.
- digitisation of our Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) system to enhance accuracy, timeliness, and interoperability.
- the expansion of training and certification through innovative programmes, such as Project Phoenix and the CAATI Adjunct Faculty Initiative, which are designed to build resilience in aviation human capital.

United for Aviation's Future

As we participate in yet, another ICAO Assembly and conclude our tenure on the ICAO Council, we reaffirm ICAO's indispensable role as civil aviation's global steward. Jamaica recommits to the multilateralism and to ICAO's leadership in shaping the standards, strategies, and innovations that will guide our sector into the future.

We will continue to work with the Organization and all Member States to ensure that civil aviation remains the world's safest, most transformative, reliable, and sustainable mode of transportation.

In closing, we echo a sentiment of unity that is deeply rooted in Jamaica's culture through our motto, "**Out of Many, One People.**" All representatives at this 42nd Assembly are truly "*One People.*" We are "*One People*" in our purpose, our vision, and our responsibility to secure and brighten aviation's future. Aviation can only soar when its wings are strengthened by unity.

Let us, together, keep aviation soaring - safely, sustainably, and inclusively, for generations to come.

One love.

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