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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY HON. FREDRICK KOLOGETO, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND AVIATION

(Presented by Solomon Islands)

President of the Assembly
President of ICAO Council, Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano
Secretary General of the ICAO, Mr Juan Carlos Salazar
Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies and Delegates

Introduction

The Solomon Islands delegation congratulates you on your appointment as President of the 42nd Assembly.

As an ICAO member state, Solomon Islands is deeply committed to play its role under the Convention to ensure the safety, efficiency and regularity of the global air navigation system.

Therefore, the Government is driving policies to create an enabling environment for aviation to grow and contribute to the economic development of SI, in a safe, integrated, sustainable and resilient manner.

As a Pacific Small Island Developing State with approximately 1000 islands, compounded by a larger geographical spread, civil aviation plays a critical role in the connectivity and accessibility for passenger, business and trade to flourish.

We are therefore committed to and express our full support for ICAO 2026-2028 Strategic Plan as the global vision for air connectivity, market growth and economic prosperity. For a developing country, civil aviation and tourism play significant role in the economic development of our country.

Aviation Safety and security

The Solomon Islands Government prioritises aviation safety as a fundamental aspect of its civil aviation ecosystem. This is achieved through delivery of safety and security oversight programmes that are supported by evidence and risk based. Through its annual budget, my government effectively supports manpower capacity to ensure the safety regulator is adequately resourced to deliver safety oversight of the civil aviation system.

Air Navigation

Recognising the role air navigation plays in aviation system, the government has embarked on developing an aviation mater plan to modernise airspace management. New control towers for Honiara and Munda Airports are currently constructed to support safer and efficient air traffic management.

Aviation Environment Protection

Ladies and gentlemen, as a PSIDS state, we witness the erosion of islands as a direct impact of climate change. In its efforts to protect the environment, Solomon Islands has developed and submitted its State Action Plan to Reduce CO2 Emissions from International Aviation.

Economic development of air transport

We are improving our progress in air service agreements. This is done through reviewing our air service agreements with neighbouring states to enable efficient frameworks for air carriers and operators.

Regional collaboration

As a PSIDS, we recognise the role effective collaboration plays in developing and enhancing capabilities. To this end, we continue to collaborate with PASO for delivery of safety oversight. Additionally, we are signing the MOU on accident investigation with Papua New Guinea on the sidelines of this Assembly.

Conclusion

Mr President, Solomon Island government fully support the ICAO Strategic Plan and reaffirm our commitment to its implementation.

Mr. President, Solomon Islands applauds and deeply appreciates the support and commitment of ICAO to progressively implement the recommendation of the PSIDS study. Amongst this is the establishment of a Pacific Liaison Office in Fiji, opened in August 2024. Solomon Islands will continue collaborate and support ICAO's efforts in the Pacific through this Office.

Thank You Tumas

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