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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY CHINA

(Presented by China)

Honorable President of the Assembly,
Honorable President of the ICAO Council, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano,
Honorable Secretary General of the ICAO, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great honor for me to lead the Chinese delegation to participate in the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly where we discuss international civil aviation development with colleagues across the globe.

Before I formally start my statement, I would like to first respond to the statement of my colleague from the US:

There is only one China in the world, the Taiwan region is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the needs of our Taiwan compatriots in the civil aviation field, but firmly opposes the interference in China's internal affairs in the name so called civil aviation-related topics.

Any issue related to the participation of the Taiwan region in the activities of international organizations must be solved under the one-China principle. China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes the relevant statement of the US concerning Taiwan.

The Chinese government requests the Assembly and relevant States to abide by the UNGA Resolution 2758 and the relevant resolutions of the ICAO Council, and to refrain from maliciously hyping about the Taiwan question, thereby interfering with the normal conduct of the Assembly Session and undermining the friendly atmosphere and valuable opportunities for States to discuss and promote industry development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past 3 years, the global civil aviation industry has gradually shaken off the shackle and shadow of the COVID-19, moving forward on its way of recovery and development while demonstrating remarkable resilience, dynamism and vitality.

¹ Chinese and English versions provided by China.

During the 3 years, China's civil aviation sector has also made remarkable strides. **Air transport turnover has reached new high**, with passenger and cargo traffic both substantially exceeding pre-COVID-19 levels. The total number of people who have travelled by air reached 470 million, making China the country with the largest aviation population.

Safety governance has yielded positive results, as our capabilities in safety risk management have continuously enhanced, our comprehensive capacity in support of safety ranks among the world's best, and our ten-year rolling average of fatalities per 100 million passenger km and the major accident rate per million flight hours stand respectively at 1/3 and 1/10 of global average.

Green transformation has gained new momentum, through enhanced planning guidance, resource investment, technological innovation, and workforce building, striving to build a green and low-carbon civil aviation transport system featuring low-carbon energy, oil to electricity terminal-use, advanced technologies, and market-oriented mechanisms.

Smart aviation initiatives have been implemented in a profound manner, with the establishment of a civil aviation data resource system to unlock the value potential of data elements, and to drive the digital and intelligent transformation of the industry and the application of new technologies. Low-altitude economy, as represented by UAS, is experiencing accelerated iteration and upgrading in technology and its application scenarios, gradually emerging as a new driver for the development of civil aviation sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, we just embraced the 80th anniversary of ICAO, and this year, we're celebrating the 80th anniversary of the United Nations. China firmly upholds the international system with the United Nations at its core, and believes multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation are the right way to address global challenges. China highly appreciates that, as a specialized agency of the United Nations and under the leadership of all ICAO Secretaries Generals, ICAO has played an irreplaceable role in uniting civil aviation communities and promoting the safe, efficient, and sustainable development of civil aviation.

As a founding member and a Part I Council State of ICAO, China has consistently adhered to the objectives of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and honored and fulfilled its obligations, by actively providing financial and human resources support to ICAO, and firmly implementing the "No Country Left Behind" initiative. In recent years, China has contributed \$5.62 million to ICAO, for specialized use in capacity building of civil aviation personnel in developing countries. As the host country of ICAO's Asia and Pacific Regional Sub-Office, China has been providing funding and human resources for its operation. In addition, China also actively assisted ICAO and work with technical and management experts. China is committed to making positive contributions to global civil aviation development.

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's world, global challenges are on the rise. Many issues know no borders, nor can they be addressed by any single State alone. Strengthening global governance is an inevitable trend. In September this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus meeting, which aligns closely with the mission and *ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050*. We stand ready to work with all Member States to pool development resources, tackle challenges together, and share the benefits of global governance. Here, China wishes to propose the following:

First, focusing on aviation safety. Currently, the industry faces multiple risk factors, including declining stability in the global aviation supply chain and increasingly complex operational environment. We must firmly establish a safety- oriented development philosophy, emphasize active prevention and systematic

governance, foster a more open, inclusive, and positive safety culture, continuously strengthen safety awareness among people, enhance capacity building of aviation personnel, and improve safety assurance and regulatory capabilities, in an effort to jointly promote the development of global aviation safety.

Second, embracing technological innovation. Digitalization, smart/intelligent transformation, and green transition have become prevailing trends in industry development, with new technologies such as artificial intelligence widely applied in multiple civil aviation scenarios. Meanwhile, global challenges such as cybersecurity, data protection, and technological divide persist. We must embrace technological innovation with a more active and open mind, leveraging digital and intelligent transformation to strive for a more solid safety foundation for industry development, more efficient operational support, more convenient transport services, and a better governance system. We encourage States to strengthen scientific and technological research and development cooperation in civil aviation. Within the framework of ICAO, we should actively explore the development of new technological standards, promote mutual recognition and harmonization of technologies, and deepen collaborative innovation in emerging fields such as smart aviation, green aviation, and low-altitude economy. Together, we will foster new drivers for civil aviation development.

Third, promoting green development. States should advance the green development of the aviation sector in an active and steady manner, based on international law, balancing ambition with pragmatism, and adhering to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and the model of emission reduction through voluntary contributions of states. ICAO should continue to play a positive and facilitating role in global climate governance, promoting the establishment of a fair, impartial, cooperative and win-win global aviation and climate governance system where all parties honor their fair share according to their abilities. As a steadfast practitioner in global climate governance, China has presented to the Assembly *Policy and Practice on Green Development in China's Civil Aviation — 2025*. China stands ready to share with all States our green development experience, where through the joint development of a Green Air Silk Road, we can work together for the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the ICAO's long-term strategic plan.

Fourth, achieving win-win cooperation. The global civil aviation is a community with a shared future where everyone's interests are inseparably entwined. Only through solidarity and cooperation can we jointly address challenges and build a better future. China civil aviation will continue to bring new opportunities to the world with its new development. We will strengthen multi-faceted cooperation with ICAO and its Member States, provide development support — including capacity building — to developing countries, and build a community with a shared future for mankind in the civil aviation sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China will seek re-election as a Part I Council State of ICAO during this Assembly Session, for which we would like the kind support from the governments of all Member States. China will continue to fulfil its role as a Council State, working alongside all Member States to advance the safe, efficient, and sustainable development of international civil aviation, and create our bright future of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation. In conclusion, I wish the 42nd Session of ICAO Assembly a full success!

Thank you!

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