



## **ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

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

##### **STATEMENT BY KENYA**

(Presented by Mr. James W. Macharia, EGH., Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works)

Mr. Nari Williams-Singh, President of the ICAO Assembly

Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the ICAO Council,

Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO,

Representatives of States on the ICAO Council,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by congratulating Mr. Nari Williams-Singh on his election as President of the ICAO Assembly. I would also like to express my appreciation to the incoming President for granting me this opportunity to address this distinguished gathering.

Allow me to also congratulate ICAO on the 75th Anniversary of its founding. We have marked this important milestone in Kenya by hoisting the ICAO flag on Mount Kenya, our highest mountain and Africa's second highest peak.

#### **Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me also express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the People of Kenya for our re-election to the Council in 2016, and for the support accorded to us during the last six years that we have been Members of the ICAO Council.

Most importantly, Kenya expresses its gratitude to ICAO for being accorded the honour of hosting the 11th ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN) in Nairobi in December 2018. It is our hope that the relationships established and agreements struck during this event will continue to have a positive impact in the global aviation industry.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The aviation industry plays an important role in Kenya due to the country's strategic location and status as an aviation hub in the region. Indeed, Kenya's Vision 2030 identifies aviation as one of the key drivers of development, growth and wealth creation. Currently about 80% of the tourists visiting the country do so by air. It is also the best way to move perishable produce like our horticultural produce and flowers to markets across the globe. The aviation sector is also expected to remain a key enabler to the achievement of the Big Four Agenda, namely:

- The enhancement of the manufacturing sector to contribute at least 20 per cent to the GDP;
- Attainment of food security;
- Implementation of Universal Health Coverage; and
- The provision of at least 500,000 affordable homes.

It is for these reasons that the Government of Kenya is reforming the aviation sector with the aim of enhancing its vital role in the development of the country. These reforms will cement Kenya's position as a regional air transport hub and as the gateway to trade and investment in East and Central Africa.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya has improved its aviation safety standards significantly in the last few years. As a testament to this, the Federal Aviation Administration of the United States of America granted Kenya International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Category 1 Status in February 2017. Amongst the initiatives that the Government has implemented to improve safety are enhancing the financial stability of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, and improving its ability to attract and retain qualified personnel.

Kenya's improved safety standards were further confirmed during a recent audit carried out under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA) Program. During this audit, which was completed in July 2018, Kenya achieved an Effective Implementation (EI) score of 78.15%.

We will continue to enhance security measures at all airports and aviation installations across the country, in order to ensure the safety and security of all passengers and airport users.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the immediate previous triennium, Kenya served as Chair of the Air Transport Committee and we are currently the outgoing Chair of the ICAO Human Resource Committee. Kenya re-affirms its commitment to support the work of ICAO so as to ensure that its strategic objectives are achieved. In addition, we look forward to supporting ICAO's Global Programmes through effective participation in key initiatives, and through the secondment of Kenyan aviation professions to ICAO. As a testament to Kenya's commitment, we are effectively executing the duties of important positions such as Chair of the ICAO Africa Flight Procedure Program (AFPP), and the Regional Aviation Safety Group for Africa and Indian Ocean Islands (RASG – AFI), amongst others.

As a Contracting State, Kenya is committed to continue discharging its obligations to ICAO in line with the provisions of the Chicago Convention, and to play a leading role in championing the attainment of ICAO's objectives.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Two days ago we were treated to the first ever IWAF Innovation Fair, which was successfully organized and executed by youth from all over the world. If we continue to nurture these talents in our youth, the prospects for growth in the aerospace industry will be tremendous, especially in developing countries.

Kenya would like to commend Dr. Benard Aliu and Dr. Fang Liu for their visionary leadership, and ICAO for its continuing initiatives to promote technological innovation for aviation. We would also like to appreciate ICAO for improving overall safety and security standards in the aviation industry.

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya remains an active member of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), which aims to promote the growth of civil aviation in Africa. Kenya also hosts the ICAO Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, and makes voluntary contributions to various ICAO funds.

Africa seeks to play a more active role in supporting the growth of the global aviation industry. In line with this, we request you to support the eight (8) African candidates vying for Part II and III seats on the ICAO Council.

In closing, we are honored to take part in this 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly. We look forward to the discussions on aviation developments in the fields of safety, security, air navigation efficiency and capacity, environmental sustainability, and the overall prospects of international civil aviation.

**I wish you all fruitful deliberations!**

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