



International Civil Aviation Organization

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## **ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION**

### **PLENARY**

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

#### **STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CLAVER GATETE, MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE, RWANDA**

(Presented by Rwanda)

President of the Assembly,  
President of the ICAO Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,  
Secretary-General of the ICAO, Dr. Fang Liu,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda has identified aviation as one of its key pillars for the social –economic development as stated in the Country’s Vision 2050. As a fact, aviation-tourism has contributed around 13% to the country’s GDP.

We are also enthused that ICAO regards Rwanda as successful in its deliverance of service to its country using innovations and advancements in aviation. Rwanda is a proponent of ICAO “No Country Left Behind” initiative and a forum such as the just concluded Innovation Fair brings attention and educates the world on the available sources in enhancing human conditions through technology without compromising safety and security. As such, we appreciate the invitation and opportunity to participate in the just concluded Innovation Fair and Fifth ICAO World Aviation Forum(IWAF).

#### **Case for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**

The project of use of UAS in Rwanda that has been ongoing since 2015 and is aggressively growing. Rwanda believes the innovation in aviation with drone usage can have a positive and sustainable effect on improved living for countries. This research and development has given Rwanda the opportunity to explore new grounds in societal development while keeping true to ICAO Executive Committee Agenda Items 19 -21, 23, and 25.

In our conceptualization through Use Cases, in order to line up would be priority targets, we asked ourselves two fundamental questions “What is the fastest and most efficient means to serve those needs” and “What kind of technology can serve the geography, topography and climate that is Rwanda?”

The answers had to take into consideration costs of operation, legal ramifications, state regulations and efficiency and provide Economic growth. We realized that this process could not be an isolated one and it

would involve the inclusion of various government sectors, technical experts, operators and end-users. Communication and understanding the abilities and limitations of operations of these various sections would be the key to laying the foundation of drone usage in Rwanda. The result of commitment to our goals is what we have today in our UAS performance-based regulations.

### **In keeping with ICAO initiatives**

In order to strengthened Regional cooperation and harmonization of processes, Rwanda is an active member of the GASOS initiative and actively participates in its study group.

Rwanda is also a participant in ICAO's CORSIA initiative. Our reasons to support this initiative is to ensure offsetting requirements from other airlines operating in Rwanda, keeping up with other leading participating States, national policy and culture of Rwanda on environmental protection and with the projected growth of Rwanda, there will be a need for it to account for its emissions. Currently Rwanda has the CORSIA legal framework and drafted Civil Aviation Technical Standards that contain the standards, rules and requirements which are applicable in respect of the ICAO Annex 16 Volume IV regarding CORSIA.

We intend to implement green airport standards at Bugesera International airport that will soon be operational.

### **Liberalization of Air Transport Services and Markets**

Rwanda fully supports the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) towards the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) which was adopted with an objective of creating an African liberalized market that is free from air traffic restrictions of aircraft capacity and frequencies while operating air transport services while increasing connectivity.

Rwanda has decided to have an open liberalized economy as a pre-condition for its economic growth. The new visa regime allows travellers from across the world to be issued a visa on arrival at port of entry, and we believe that the free movement of people fosters trade and tourism, and is good for the continent's integration policy and realization of the African free trade regime. There may be challenges of open borders, but we believe that the benefits of our policy outweigh the potential setbacks.

### **Secondment Opportunities**

Rwanda welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with ICAO through Secondment opportunities of technical experts as we believe this provides an incubation environment where we can experience an exchange of ideas, skills and expertise. The goal is the development of sustainable platforms for innovation and technology.

### **International Standards and Recommended Practices**

As I conclude, I wish to renew The Republic of Rwanda's commitment towards the achievement of unequalled improvements in aviation safety and security as we continue to build a resilient and a sustainable aviation industry.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**