



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item #5: Election of Member States to be represented on the Council

CANDIDATURE OF THE STATE OF QATAR

(Presented by the State of Qatar)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This paper presents Qatar's candidature for election as Member of the Council, under Part III.	
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to all the Strategic Objectives.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No additional resources required.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 7600, <i>Standing Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization</i> .

1. QATAR'S SUCCESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN AVIATION

1.1 Qatar's aviation sector continues thriving and prospering, which has enabled the sector to maintain sustained growth rates, through the development and implementation of effective strategies to build a secure and sustainable civil aviation sector, placing the State of Qatar in a prominent position within the international civil aviation community.

1.2 Qatar has shown over the years to be a strong supporter of ICAO, its mission, goals, objectives and principles. Qatar has contributed to a number of ICAO initiatives, including the "No Country Left Behind" initiative, as well as ICAO's Gender Equality Training Program.

1.3 Qatar and ICAO jointly established the Qatar-ICAO Developing Countries Scholarship Programme in 2017. Two-year diploma programmes were offered to participants from developing countries. The objective is to augment the capabilities of developing countries to implement the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and to promote the safety and development of civil aviation. In 2022, the Programme was extended for a further three years.

1.4 Qatar has signed 173 agreements and memoranda of understanding in the field of air transport with various countries world-wide.

1.5 Qatar has achieved outstanding results on the comprehensive audit of the safety of civil aviation according to ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) with a 91.16 percent compliance rate which far exceeds the global average of 65%, demonstrating Qatar's compliance with all aspects of civil aviation safety. ICAO honoured the Civil Aviation Authority for this achievement by granting a certificate of appreciation from the President of the ICAO Council. As part of its commitment to reinforcing international aviation safety standards, Qatar has provided the necessary support to member states within the framework of ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative.

1.6 Qatar has received a certificate of appreciation from ICAO in recognition of Qatar's results in respect of an audit conducted in 2017 under ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) by obtaining a 99.10 percent rating in the application of the aviation security standards. Qatar has achieved a 96.76 percent rating in the implementation of ICAO Annex 17 on aviation security and a 100 percent rating in the application of security standards contained in Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

1.7 Qatar has invested over USD 300 million in the airspace re-organization and modernization of Air Traffic Management Systems to cater for present and future demands.

2. QATAR AIRWAYS

2.1 Qatar Airways is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, with a fleet size of well over 250 aircraft. The airline's strategic investment in modern fuel-efficient aircraft has enabled it to remain agile and sustainable throughout the pandemic, offering the right capacity in each market to meet both passenger and cargo demand.

2.2 With an average aircraft age of six years, the state-of-the-art fleet continues to be one of the youngest and most modern in the industry.

2.3 Qatar Airways global network has continued to bounce back after the COVID-19 pandemic and has already reached more than 150 destinations as of April 2022, with plans to expand this to 180 destinations. Based on IATA statistics, by 2020-2021, Qatar Airways had become the largest cargo airline in the world (excluding express operation FedEx); the number of its destinations doubled from 63 in 2019-2020 to 122 in 2020-2021, and flights increased from pre-covid operations of up to 60 flights a day (freighter only) to 180 flights a day during Covid (freighter and belly-hold).

2.4 Since its launch in 1997, Qatar Airways has earned many awards and accolades, becoming one of the elite groups of airlines worldwide to:

- Be recognized as a 5-star Airline by Skytrax.
- Be voted Airline of the Year by Skytrax in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019, and the airline continues to stand alone at the top of the industry having won the main prize for an unprecedented sixth time in 2021.
- Become a member of the award-winning one world airline Alliance enabling its passengers to benefit from more than 900 destinations in 170 countries.

- Be named World's Best Business Class, World's Best Business Class Airline Lounge, World's Best Business Class Airline Seat, World's Best Business Class Onboard Catering and Best Airline in the Middle East in the 2021 Skytrax Awards.

2.5 The safety record of the airline is remarkable. It was the first airline to be audited by IATA and obtained a 100% compliance in that 2003 audit. It has been achieving a 100 percent compliance rate with each audit since.

2.6 During the unprecedented and challenging times of the pandemic, Qatar Airways has become the first global airline in the world to achieve the prestigious 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating by Skytrax. Such safety rating demonstrates Qatar Airways' commitment to safeguard the health and wellbeing of passengers.

3. **HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

3.1 Hamad International Airport opened in April 2014. It is a young and sophisticated airport built to be the world's preferred transfer hub. HIA served over 22 million passengers in the 2021/2022 financial year. Currently, the airport has the capacity to handle more than 40 million passengers a year. HIA is undergoing further expansion to accommodate more than 53 million passengers by 2022 and more than 60 million passengers once the expansion is completed. The airport's goal is to be one of the most operationally efficient airports in the world, putting the passenger at the heart of the airport's strategy.

3.2 The airport is ranked "World's Best Airport" by the 2021 Skytrax World Airport Awards. HIA is classified as a five-star airport by Skytrax, making it one among few other airports in the world to achieve this prestigious status. HIA has also won the 'Best Airport in the Middle East' title for seven years in a row and 'Best Staff Service in the Middle East' for six years in a row. In December 2020, the airport became the first in the Middle East and Asia to be awarded a 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating by Skytrax – a testament to HIA's efforts in the rapid and robust implementation of new safety measures. HIA is also the first entity in the world to achieve independent certification from the British Standards Institution (BSI) for its implementation of COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocols, and the first airport in the Middle East to receive the ISO 22301:2012 Business Continuity Management System Certification by BSI, proving the resilience of HIA airport operations in the face of disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic

4. **QATAR'S SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

4.1 Despite its intensified efforts and strict measures to control the outbreak of the pandemic at a domestic level, Qatar has remained committed to its obligations toward the international community, particularly to countries most affected by the pandemic. With an immense sense of solidarity with all world citizens leaving no one behind, Qatar's assistance in combatting the pandemic has benefitted:

- The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), with USD 20 million.
- In partnership with GAVI, the Qatar Fund for Development committed USD 10 million to support the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a financial mechanism which aimed to procure 1.3 billion doses of vaccine by the end of 2021.
- The World Health Organization (WHO), with 10 million USD to support the testing of equipment, treatments and a vaccine for COVID.

- Many field hospitals donated by the Ministry of Defence provided with continued funding.

4.2 Also, non-governmental foreign aid was provided (charitable organizations and the private sector) which amounted to nearly 40 million USD.

4.3 Qatar has been working closely with countries and international partners to ensure the safety of the Afghan people while sparing no efforts to help secure the safe passage of civilians, journalists, diplomats and staff of international organizations out of Afghanistan. More than 75,000 people from Afghanistan were evacuated through Qatar and Qatar Airways provided 10 aircraft to transport evacuees from Doha to other countries.

4.4 Qatar has also contributed to the re-opening of Kabul's airport by dispatching teams from Qatar Civil Aviation Authority to provide technical assistance to resume airport operations for humanitarian flights and the evacuation of Afghans and stranded nationals from other states.

5. QATAR AND ICAO

5.1 The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar continues to work closely with ICAO and develops enhanced relationships with other member States in the field of aviation. The Mission has provided support through sponsorships and contributions to many ICAO events and charities including but not limited to:

- **Contributions:**

- ICAO Gender Equality Training Initiatives (2022)
- ICAO implementation package (iPacks) to assist Member States in their response, recovery and resilience efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020)
- No Country left behind Initiative (August 2018)
- ICAO spouse club: Montreal Children's hospital (2021), Old Brewery Mission (2020), Charity Drive (2017)

- **Sponsorships:**

- ICAO HLM-LTAG (2022)
- ICAO Innovation Fair and 5th ICAO World Aviation Forum IWAF/5 September (2019)
- Second High-Level Conference on Aviation November (2018)
- 13th Air Navigation Conference October (2018)
- Global Aviation Gender Summit August (2018)
- CORSIA July (2018)
- ICAO – Qatar Developing Countries Scholarship

6. QATAR'S CANDIDATURE TO THE COUNCIL IN PART III

6.1 Qatar is seeking a seat on the Council for the first time. We believe in sharing the knowledge and experience we have gained over the years, which has seen aviation in Qatar grow from negligible to world-renowned. Qatar has had an outsized positive impact on aviation in the region and globally. Qatar firmly believes that it can make a significant contribution to the solution of the many

challenges facing the industry today and in the years to come. We would be honoured to be given that opportunity to serve the aviation community.

— END —