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ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 8: Statements by delegations of Member States

STATEMENT BY UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

President of the Assembly,
President of the ICAO Council, Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is a great honor for me to make a brief statement on behalf of the United Arab Emirates before this ICAO Assembly.
2. The Assembly is held every three years to assess the progress of ICAO's Strategic Objectives of improved standards of aviation safety and security, efficiency and environment protection. I believe we can hold our heads high when we look back, we have certainly made strong progress. There is of course, a lot more to be done as famously said by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum – the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, "**The race for excellence has no finish line**".
3. I am confident that the spirit of friendship, community and mutual cooperation that prevails among Member States today, will help us all to reach new heights and explore new frontiers. ICAO has a pivotal role in ensuring this harmony, mutual respect and comradery remains central to the relationship amongst us, I thank the Council and the Secretariat for their tireless commitment towards this.
4. As a Council member, UAE highly appreciates ICAO's leading initiative of "*No Country Left Behind*" and consistently plays its part for the success of this important initiative. However, "the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts", a phrase that aptly describes synergy. It is my honor to inform the Assembly that not only the UAE launched its own cooperation initiatives in support of the NCLB, we also launched a US \$ 1 million Award to recognize and honor the Member States for their contributions in this respect.
5. In order to achieve a bright future for the rapidly growing civil aviation industry, we have worked in the UAE from the outset on the sustainability and growth of the civil aviation sector. The UAE ranked first in the world for compliance with ICAO's safety standards as well as the application of aviation security standards.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6. We believe that the regional and international civil aviation sector is a chain of guaranteeing the security and safety of civil aviation and recognize our responsibility in achieving this common goal with the civil aviation sector in all countries, especially the Arab countries, through launching technical and non-technical support initiatives to help them improve their ability to comply with ICAO standards and recommended practices.

7. ICAO Ready, is an Initiative designed to support ICAO's "*No Country Left Behind*" initiative, where we send specialized technical teams at the request of States and help them build capabilities according to the requirements of the USAP and USAP. We identify gaps and work with them to close these well before the due date of ICAO's audit, so that they are prepared for such audits. We are pleased that since the launch of the program we have been able to assist more than 20 countries.

8. In 2011, GCAA launched an initiative to develop and qualify the human resources in the civil aviation sector. We have successfully trained more than 2,300 trainees from around the world in the fields of security and safety.

9. In light of the importance of empowering women in the field of civil aviation, we have launched a special international program "Women in the Aviation Sector," which to date has helped train more than 55 women from Arab, African and Latin American countries.

ENVIORNMENT PROTECTION

10. UAE became a permanent Council member of the Committee of Aviation Environment Protection (CAEP) in March 2016 after serving efficiently as an observer for 6 years. UAE continues its engagement and support to ICAO's CAEP Committee and its Working Group with a number of experts in different areas. As at 2019, we have 8 experts in five main Working Groups such as: Alternative Fuel, Operation and Carbon Offsetting Reduction System (CORSA).

HOSTING ICAO EVENTS

11. We believe that the UAE is the essence of any development and success, especially in the field of civil aviation. Over the past years, we have organized and hosted several events and conferences such as the annual Aviation Investment Summit and Aviation Exhibitions, ICAO Cyber Security Summit UNOOSA and the YOMEX exhibition, which presents the latest technologies in the field of UAVs. These events are attended by senior ministers, high level delegates and officials of the Arab and international civil aviation sector.

COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL AVIATION INDUSTRY

12. In recognition of the benefits to promote improvements in the air transport infrastructure, liberalization, financial and non-financial resource contributions to the ICAO, the UAE established a US\$ 1 Million Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Global Aviation Award. This richest award in the history of aviation recognizes the States, individuals and organizations for their commitment to the development of the aviation industry.

13. Since 2015, UAE has awarded \$ 80,000 under its Aeronnovation Award program to stimulate innovation in the aerospace industry. The Aeronnovation program recognizes improvements in the areas of passenger experience, aviation safety standards and emission reduction.

14. In addition to setting up a number of Innovation Centres within the UAE, we also launched international initiatives such as Artificial Intelligence, Flying Taxi etc. with an aim to create a stimulating environment for innovation in fields such as unmanned aircraft, 3D printing and Blockchain.

CONCLUSION

15. On this note, let me conclude by confirming UAE's strongest support for ICAO and our constant readiness to cooperate with all countries for the benefit of civil aviation. We have always played our role to collectively keep air travel safe, efficient and sustainable.

16. It is my great honour to inform you that the Arab Civil Aviation Organization has nominated the UAE for the Council Part III elections and therefore, we seek the much valued support of all Member State delegations present at this Assembly.

17. I wish for the successful outcome of this Assembly. Thank you.

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