



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

PLENARY

Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Air transport plays an important role in Papua New Guinea (PNG), notwithstanding the advances made by road and maritime transport. The rugged nature of the terrain, coupled with lack of other suitable forms of transport has placed heavy demand on air transport to provide communication links within the country and at international level.

1.2 The heavy demands amongst other factors had contributed to bringing about policy, legislative and institutional reforms in the aviation sector both in the conduct of domestic and international services. Under the reforms, PNG is required to support APEC and forum policies.

1.3 PNG remains committed to the strategic objectives of ICAO with respect to its goal of enhancing global aviation safety and security, improving efficiency of aviation operations, minimising adverse environmental impacts from air transport and strengthening the laws governing civil aviation.

2. GOVERNMENT'S VISION 2050 AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2030

2.1 PNG remains committed to the strategic objectives of ICAO with respect to its goal of enhancing global aviation safety and security, improving efficiency of aviation operations, minimising adverse environmental impacts from air transport and strengthening the laws governing civil aviation.

3. REGIONAL INITIATIVES

3.1 From the outset, PNG has and will continue to support the regional initiatives in the regional forum action plan. The policy framework and strategies on economic regulation, safety oversight and security, airspace management augers well with current government related policies.

3.2 In the last four years, PNG has undergone institutional and legislative reforms in the transport sector with particular emphasis in the aviation sub sector with the separation of the regulatory body from the commercial and service provision of the former civil aviation authority. The civil aviation safety authority has been established as an autonomous regulatory authority for the aviation industry.

Furthermore, the reform has clearly demarcated the economic and safety regulation responsibilities leaving the department of transport to deal with policy aspects of the whole transport system in PNG

3.3 The policy framework is embedded in PNG's current civil aviation act and sets a clear direction to their implementation at the regional level. The government position is to create an environment conducive to operation of sustainable air services both at the domestic and international level and leave the industry to operate based on commercial principles but within the regulatory framework. PNG has adopted a phased approach towards full liberalisation of international air services taking into account the volatility of market conditions and the ability of national airlines to operate in a competitive environment. (PNG has adopted an open skies policy).

4. COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND SECURITY

4.1 Safety and security remain the top priority for PNG in the provision of air navigation services in the Port Moresby flight information region. Investments are continuously made in new technologies and processes to enhance air navigation services, with collaboration with air services Australia for air traffic management system.

4.2 PNG continues to play an active role in improving its aviation security and is committed to exploring the use of new technologies to enhance aviation security. It remains fully supportive of the objectives and procedures related to the ICAO USAP programs and will be audited in mid October 2010.

4.3 In the area of aviation safety, PNG is very supportive of the conclusions and recommendations that arose out of the ICAO high level safety conference particularly in supporting the ICAO safety framework based on sound safety management principles - a necessary step to ensure that the many components of our respective safety programs are implemented in a strategic and coordinated manner, and the need to further reduce the number of accidents, especially fatal accidents to maintain the public confidence .

4.4 On regional safety arrangements, PNG supports and affirms the role of ICAO in its efforts to foster the development and sustainability of regional safety oversight organisations (RSOO) and is actively participating in the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); through its membership and as Chair.

5. COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5.1 PNG is committed also to ensuring the integrity of the environment is maintained while supporting the country's economic development. For the first time PNG has enjoyed political stability since independence which has translated into many development activities that have potential to affect the environment.

5.2 The issue of climate change remained a major environmental problem for all Pacific Islanders. Individually our countries are too small to make an impact at the global level, but collectively as a region, we can make the world sit up and take note of this phenomenon that we have little to do with our people. PNG considers this as a priority issue that is why we have established the office of climate change and development.

6. PARTNERSHIP WITH DONOR AGENCIES IN PROMOTING CIVIL AVIATION

6.1 PNG is strengthening its international liaison and building on existing bilateral and multilateral relationships. This has included attending the first APEC Transportation Working Group meeting, establishing a PNG -Australia memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the transport sector, and attending the 37th ICAO general assembly meeting.

6.2 The MOU in the transport sector is to strengthen institutional linkages between both countries and provide a basis for sharing of information and collaborate on issues of joint interests. The MOU contains annexes which are focused on aviation issues in the first instance to reflect the current priority of aviation.

7. PNG'S MAIN OBJECTIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ICAO 37TH ASSEMBLY SESSION

7.1 PNG is confident that the forum will offer opportunities for us to participate, share knowledge, experience, information and ideas, but more importantly the forum's overarching goal is to seek solutions to common aviation problems affecting regions and the world.

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