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**ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION**

**PLENARY**

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

**STATEMENT TO THE 37TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) BY H.E. ALEX C. MASSINDA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO CANADA**

(Presented by the United Republic of Tanzania)

**Dr. Harold O. Demuren, President of the 37th Session of ICAO Assembly,**

**Mr. Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez, President of ICAO Council,**

**Mr. Raymond Benjamin, ICAO Secretary General,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania and my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your election as the President of this Assembly. Allow me also to join those who have spoken before me in saluting you, all delegations and participants to the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of ICAO, which is taking place in this great city of Montreal in Quebec Province, Canada.

Tanzania notes with satisfaction that, since the last Assembly held in September 2007, ICAO has continued to lead and work closely with

Contracting States in ensuring that civil aviation continues to be the safest mode of transportation in comparison with other modes, despite its remarkable growth. Taking cognizance of the objectives of the Organization to strengthen safety oversight capacity, the United Republic of Tanzania together with other Partner States in East African Community, i.e. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda signed a protocol

for the establishment of a regional safety oversight organization which is known as East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA).

Through this Agency, the United Republic of Tanzania has benefited by jointly developing and harmonising civil aviation regulations and the associated technical guidance material (TGM). In the area of air navigation, Tanzania has established and implemented the quality system in the aeronautical information services while the Division of Air Navigation Services of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority is now ISO 9001-2008 certified. The concept of reduced vertical separation minima (RVSM) has been implemented since September 2008 and height monitoring of operating flights is ongoing. The ICAO English language proficiency requirements is progressing well and all commercial pilots and practising air traffic controllers in the country are at Level 4 and above. Tanzania has also started the implementation of performance based navigation (PBN) and two PBN routes in its Flight Information Region (FIR) are expected to be commissioned by October 2010. Aviation security has also seen positive strides whereby Tanzania achieved acceptable compliance in the year 2009 Universal Safety Audit Programme.

With regard to airport infrastructure, a parallel taxiway leading to the threshold of the main runway at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam has been constructed thus, increasing the runway capacity from 8 aircraft movements per hour to 30 movements. In order to cope with the increase of traffic to and from Zanzibar, construction of a new Terminal Building, which will be in conformity with security and facilitation requirements for an international airport, will commence before the end of this financial year. Further, construction of a new international airport, in the southwest part of the country bordering Malawi and Zambia is in progress. The Airport is expected to be ready for use by March 2011, thereby opening up the country to more connections within and outside. In conformity with the requirements of the investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents, the Accident Investigation Branch has now been detached from the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority to the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and thus increasing its independence.

**Mr. President,**

Tanzania has ratified the Cape Town Convention of 2001 on International Interests in Mobile Equipment together with the Protocol to the Convention on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment. Regulations to make the Convention and Protocol applicable in the country are expected to be promulgated by December 2010.

With regard to liberalization of air transport, Tanzania has been implementing the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision together with the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Member States. Multiple designations of airlines are now accepted and the designation criterion of “substantial ownership and effective control” is considered alongside the “principal place of business and effective regulatory control”. Between 2007 and 2010, a total of ten (10) liberal bilateral air service agreements were negotiated with several countries, which resulted in the increase of international flights into the country.

**Mr. President,**

The United Republic of Tanzania faces a number of challenges in meeting its obligations under the Chicago Convention. One of the challenges is inadequate number of qualified aviation personnel, high cost of their training and re-training to remain proficient at all times, retention of qualified personnel against competition from the airlines with the rapid development and expansion of the aviation industry. While some of these challenges are expected to be addressed through the East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), sustainable financing of the Agency has to be worked on by the Partner States in collaboration with development partners.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to thank you again on behalf of my Delegation and wish the Assembly every success in its deliberations.

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