

**ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION**

**PLENARY**

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

**STATEMENT**

(Presented by Zimbabwe)

Mr. President,

I join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over this 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and my delegation, I wish to extend warm greetings to His Excellency the President of the Council, Dr. Assad Kotaite, the Secretary General, Mr. Taïeb Chérif, distinguished Delegates and Observers present at this 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly, and to the Government of Canada.

Mr. President, my government is actively participating in international, regional and sub-regional initiatives to liberalise the air transport industry. In this regard, the recommendations of the Worldwide Air Transport Conference held in March 2003 here in Montreal are being taken on board in our policy formulation process.

Zimbabwe is an active player in the proposed coordinated and integrated aviation development programmes for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regions.

Zimbabwe is committed to achieving and sustaining ICAO compliance in the fields of Safety and Security. ICAO conducted a follow-up Safety audit from 19-21 July 2004, and the report of this follow-up audit mission will be given serious consideration as always. Significant steps are being taken to prepare for the certification of aerodromes in accordance with Amendment 4 to Annex 14.

In the field of aviation security, the government has made great strides. The State has developed and implemented the National Aviation Security Programme and has established Security and Facilitation committees at both national and airport levels. Zimbabwe now has two ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme Certified Auditors.

The Government of Zimbabwe has continued to strive to observe important conventions and protocols. The State will also continue to meet its financial obligation to ICAO to signify its commitment to the vision and objectives of ICAO.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe urges all States to continue cooperating at both regional and global levels to improve safety, security and efficiency in civil aviation. Zimbabwe remains committed to the mission of ICAO notwithstanding her budgetary and human capital constraints.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations!

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