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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

PLENARY

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

STATEMENT

(Presented by Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Mr. President
Mr. Secretary General
Excellencies the Ministers
Colleagues Heads of Delegations
and members of delegations
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

On my behalf and on behalf of my country I have the pleasure and honour to congratulate Dr. Assad Kotaite for his election as Chairman of this session. I wish him all the success.

I have come to know this man over thirty years or about, his enthusiasm, his generous contribution and his strong will. I do congratulate you as I congratulate myself to have this man at the helm of our distinguished organization. Let me salute and express my appreciation of him in your name.

I also congratulate you for having Dr. Taïeb Chérif as Secretary General, wishing him success.

I also take pleasure in expressing my appreciation of and gratitude to the Government of Canada, the Province of Quebec and the beautiful city of Montreal and its courteous people for their warm reception and hospitality.

Distinguished participants,

I call upon you, from this forum, not to entertain matters that are not relevant to our organization. I would have preferred that the representative of Liberia reconsider his statement this morning, in which he has levelled false charges against those who are above such conduct.

Mr. President,

My country occupies a key geographical region of the world, and a strategic location in North Africa. By virtue of this location my country is an important corridor for air traffic to and from the African continent, and from there to all other directions on highly intensive international air routes linking the world continents. My country has been always seeking, through development plans for the civil aviation sector, to develop the network of international and local airports, and to upgrade and enhance our navigation systems and facilities.

The ever increasing significance of air transport in my country is impelling us to expand the infrastructure of civil aviation, facilitate and improve its services. We have invested more than \$ 1,5 billion in the field of civil aviation and air transport. We are also planning to invest several times this figure in the next few years so as to improve its infrastructures and meet the needs of the increasing numbers of passengers using our airports.

In my country decisions and executive regulations have been made by the competent authorities that open the door for private sector participation in the air transport sector, in addition to the national carrier. Such endeavours will reflect positively on the volume of air traffic, and on better services and prices.

The transparent approach adopted by the Great Jamahiriya coupled with its political and economic standing are heralding the country to stability and progress. My country is keen on strengthening its relations and cooperation with all the countries of the world on the basis of common interests and mutual respect. The Jamahiriya is party to most of the agreements concluded under the auspices of ICAO, and is fully pursuing the application of the international standards and recommended practices of the Chicago Convention Annexes.

The implementation of the Annexes of the Chicago Convention is the main objective of ICAO to safe guard the safety of civil aviation. Our monitoring of ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme is evidence of the success achieved. I can see an effective role for ICAO to play in determining safety concerns and in submitting recommendations for addressing these concerns. The context of safety, is attaining its goal. It has proved its effectiveness in establishing the Programme and regulating its initial operations. However, maintaining the same approach will involve longer time and more costs, keeping in mind that each Contracting State is strongly aware of the capabilities of other Contracting States. The preoccupation with air safety on the part of states has good reasons, and because of it USOAP has been established in order to implement mandatory, methodical and coordinated audit operations. We welcome the expansion of USOAP so as to include all safety related provisions in all the Annexes of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Mr. President, distinguished participants,

Over the past years ICAO has added many accomplishments to its credit with regard to the formulation of standards. The Chicago Convention has withstood the rapid changes of time, proving its utility in addressing issues relating to the protection of civil aviation environment. I have no doubt that ICAO will continue to develop standards and recommended practices which will be the subject of deliberations over the current issues of civil aviation.

The African and developing countries as well as the rest of the nations of the world are pinning much hope on the air transport industry for its role in their economic and social development, bearing in mind their difficult economic conditions and the marginality of their airlines in the international air transport market. The African countries have given attention to the development of mechanisms that safeguard fair competition, safety and security when they decided to liberalize air transport within the continent through the decision to implement the Yamasukro declaration. Taking into account that the commercialization of airports and air navigation services is still in its initial preparation phase, we are aware that privatization could be a source of revenues to meet or reduce budget deficits. Airports and air navigation services could offer good investment. Guidance materials on key aspects of commercialization, therefore, should be under constant review and revision, and should be expanded.

Mr. President, distinguished conferees,

These days of ICAO's age, as we celebrate its sixtieth anniversary, and as we enter the 21st century, we are faced with immense challenges which include:

- The new Operational International Concept for Air Traffic Management.
- The implementation of the new Universal Satellite-based Navigation Systems, the commercialization of airports and air navigation services, and privatization of ownership and management are parts of the overall globalization process and the liberalization of world economies.

These are years that involve heavy tasks, including new technologies for efficiency enhancement, developing policies and guidance material for airports and navigation services. They also involve development of criteria for measuring performance and the required productivity of the organization, addressing the challenges of the rapidly changing civil aviation sector, improving air safety and meeting the needs of Contracting States for guidance material and amendment of standards and recommended practices.

To be fair, we believe in and call upon states to support our organization, ICAO, by approving its budget so as it can implement its ambitious plans that are important to the entire international civil aviation community.

I would like to express my wishes for the success of the work of the assembly and in developing procedures that enhance the security and safety of aviation and travellers in realization of national interests and the well-being and safety of the peoples of the world.

I would like also to express my appreciation of the secretariat general and warmly congratulate them for their efforts. I should not also forget the efforts of the unknown soldiers of the translation and interpretation services for their efforts to make this session a success.

Thank you, and please accept my greeting to you all.

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