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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 Bahrain)

Mr. Chair Person of the ICAO 35th Assembly,
Mr. President of the ICAO Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads and Members of delegations,
Greetings to all,

At the outset I have the honour to convey to you the greetings of His Majesty, Sheik Hamad Ben Eissa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and his Government and the greetings and support of His Excellency the Minister of Transport, who has led our march towards development and progress in the various disciplines of civil aviation.

We would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed to the success and progress of ICAO activities and endeavors throughout the years. We also look forward to playing our part making a contribution. I would like also to extend thanks and utmost gratitude to the Government and people of Canada for their hospitality and generosity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to meet in this periodic forum after three years of hard work in all fields to recover from the effects of September 11th which had grave repercussions on this industry. The Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted a policy aimed at mitigating these repercussions for airlines by exempting them from landing and fees as well as offering reduced fuel prices, and handling fees, due to our firm belief that we and the airlines are partners in the same industry. In line with the ICAO policy, we provided the necessary financial guarantee for our carriers to continue operating after the insurance companies had relinquished playing their role after these events.

Furthermore, these events impelled us, due to their impact, to give aviation securities the utmost attention, particularly with regard to security personnel at the airport, the screening of baggage with x-ray machines and the identity confirmation of staff, etc.

Regarding aviation security the ICAO auditing team has expressed its full appreciation of the aviation security system adopted by Bahrain in terms of its compliance with ICAO requirements. With regard to International Finance Facility for Air Safety, the Kingdom of Bahrain had approved the project. Likewise, Bahrain has welcomed the ICAO plans to establish an International Fund for war risk insurance, develop the legal frameworks for air navigation system , update the Rome Agreement of 1952, and set standards for the handling of unruly passengers and incorporate them into national laws. We have also established and launched the Electronic Forum in the Middle East in coordination with the Middle East Regional Office. The forum will provide opportunities and options for participants in ICAO meetings to discuss working papers prior to the ICAO meetings thereon.

In the area of commercial air transport regulation, the Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted an "open sky" policy since October 2001. Currently, and together with Arab member States in the Arab Civil Aviation Commission, Bahrain is endeavoring to reach agreement on the establishment of a regional agreement to liberalize Arab transport. When established, the proposed agreement will contribute to the prosperity of air traffic in this important region, and will have a positive impact on relations with the other blocs.

Mr. President,

I would like to emphasize that the Kingdom of Bahrain will continue to its strong support of the organization as the umbrella under which we all work which played a role in the development and well-being of air transport over 60 years of its foundation.

Thank you Mr. President

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