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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 Mozambique)

**MR. PRESIDENT OF ICAO COUNCIL, DR. ASSAD KOTAITE
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO, DR. TAÏB CHÉRIF
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF ICAO MEMBER STATES
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Canada, to the Government of the Province of Quebec and to the people of the beautiful city of Montreal, for the warm reception accorded to me and to my delegation. I would like also to extend our special greetings to ICAO and the aeronautical family attending this Assembly.

The 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly takes place on the eve of the organization's 60th anniversary.

Therefore allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate all the ICAO efforts and Member States for their commitment to the efforts undertaken for the improvement of the role of civil aviation. Special thanks to Dr. Assad Kotaite who has been serving the ICAO for more than 25 years. Under his wise guidance the Organization has embarked in routes of progress and reliable development.

**MR. PRESIDENT
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

The Republic of Mozambique is a member of ICAO since 1977, and since then it has done its best to honour the obligations and enjoy the rights derived from its statute of member state.

The development of civil aviation in my country made us realize that in addition to the traditional objectives of this activity, for instance, economic development, national unity, national pride etc, national survival has to be included as an objective.

How would Mozambique have handled, for example, the emergency situation of 2000 as a result of heavy rains which flooded vast areas of the southern and central parts of the country including cities, villages, roads, railways, bridges, without civil aviation?

As an illustration, suffice to say or to remember, as many of you have noticed through international media, that in the uncommon event of a woman giving birth in a tree, she and her baby were rescued by an helicopter of a sister country, the Republic of South Africa!

In that occasion the skies of Mozambique were also visited by airplanes from all parts of the World: from North America to Asia, from Europe to Southern Africa, from South America to Australia, all in humanitarian and rescue mission!

From a routine of handling a dozen of daily flights, the Maputo International Airport and others had to handle hundred of them and without a single incident!

Because of cyclic natural calamities which hit, from time to time, this long-sized country, many times air transport remains the only means to move people and goods.

That is why civil aviation is of critical importance for Mozambique. Even if air transport declines for any reason, the infrastructure must be there and ready to be activated.

Based on these facts, the Government of the Republic of Mozambique has paid due attention to the civil aviation area:

- by conceiving and designing policies which go along with the worldwide liberalization of domestic as well as international air transport trends, although in accordance with sub regional and regional strategies for that effect, for instance the Yamoussoukro Decision;
- by developing the regulatory capacity as can be testified by the recent setting up of the Mozambique Civil Aviation Institute;
- by establishing, maintaining and developing aeronautical infrastructures and navigation aids through the "Airports of Mozambique E.P" (ADM), a public company, where participation of private investment is welcome.

Mr. President
Fellow delegates

The Republic of Mozambique is standing for election to the Council, Part III.

In presenting its candidature, it is enjoying on one hand its right as a member state and, on the other hand, it is taking its turn according to the rotation arrangement among the fourteen states constituting the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Let me assure you that this is a promising Community and is in line with the objectives of the AFRICAN UNION.

Mozambique counts on the support of all of you in the elections and is ready to participate in the forthcoming Council.

Mozambique is aware of the enormous challenges Civil Aviation is facing mainly in security matters. In adhering to the United Nations and ICAO Conventions and Protocols dealing with those critical matters, reaffirms its unconditional repudiation of terrorist attacks against civil aviation.

Mozambique reaffirms also its determination to cooperate with all other member states in a joint endeavour (aiming) to overcome all the challenges ahead.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate my greetings to all present and wish the greatest success for this session.

Thank you very much

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