

Doctor Atef Ebeid, Prime Minister of Egypt

Doctor Assad Kotaite, President of ICAO

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you as dear guests of the land of Egypt wishing you a pleasant stay and a successful meeting; I wish to seize this opportunity to welcome Doctor Assad Kotaite and to express our deep appreciation for his effective and continuing contribution to international civil aviation.

Being aware of the importance of convening the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Facilitation Division in Egypt, the Civil Aviation Authority in the Arab Republic of Egypt has exerted all efforts for more than a year of preparation and organization to insure the success of this important meeting. Your meeting is being held during a crucial phase for the air transport industry worldwide. The last three years have witnessed considerable negative consequences for air transport operations in the wake of the events of the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001, the most important consequences of which have been the tougher security measures that have been introduced. The importance of your meeting and the recommendations and conclusions you will be producing, are also highlighted by the emergency security challenges, and the successive events that required the adoption of such measures, as well as the

adoption of new strategies to facilitate air transport and achieve the economic and essential operation of air transport.

The challenges which confronted Egyptian civil aviation, as civil aviation worldwide, have been the effective engine and catalyst to embark on the application of an ambitious national plan for a crucial and decisive development covering all locations and activities. We hope that you will have the time to witness the various aspects of our plan in this direction.

I sincerely thank Dr. Assad Kotaite and his distinguished Council for selecting Cairo to be the venue of your important meeting promising that the Egyptian capital, which was among the founders of our international organization who signed its convention sixty years ago, will be an effective element and constant supporter of ICAO and a strong advocate of its regulations.

My appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Atef Ebeid for agreeing that Egypt should be a host of the conference, and for convening it under his auspices.

Once again, it is my honour to welcome you in Egypt, wishing your conference all success, hoping that your conclusions will contribute to the achievement of economic growth of civil aviation worldwide.

I wish you all a happy stay in Egypt surrounded by the depth and warmth of Egyptians' feelings towards you.

Thank You.