

Statement

by

**Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi D-8 Secretary-General at the
8th Working Group on Civil Aviation and Directors-General Meeting**

24-25 August 2014, Dhaka

**His Excellency Mr. Rashed Khan Menon,
Honorable Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism**

Distinguished Chairman,

Distinguished Directors-General and Heads of Delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour for me to be associated with the continuous process of advancing our cooperation and partnership in Civil Aviation sector, one of the priority areas of cooperation within the D-8 Organization. It is very encouraging to note that this very important meeting is widely participated by our Member States. I welcome you all to the *8th Working Group on Civil Aviation and Director-Generals Meeting*.

To begin with, I deeply appreciate and thank the Government of Bangladesh, especially to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, for their warm hospitality and this well-prepared Meeting, providing us with this wonderful venue in the capital city of Dhaka. I would also like to express my appreciation to all participants for their presence and look forward to their valuable contribution to the Meeting. I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh for their valuable efforts.

Mr. Chairman

But before I start, I would like to reiterate my deep condolences and profound shock at the consecutive tragic and traumatic incidents that happened with the Malaysian Airlines. The loss was irreparable and unforgivable. I would also like to refer to the recent sad incident of air craft accident that took place in Iran, claiming life of nearly 50 people. I pray to the Almighty so

that the countries turn the sorrow into strengths and that the near and dear ones of the departed souls have the strength to bear the loss.

Distinguished Chairman

Distinguished Delegates,

Please allow me to begin with the bigger picture and the larger context we have to deal with in the field of civil aviation. Air transportation has been growing rapidly, even though the world has experienced slow economic growth in many regions.

Continuous improvement in aviation is a fundamental criterion to ensuring safe and secure air transport. According to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the aviation industry directly and indirectly supports employment of 56.6 million people, contributes over US\$ 2.00 trillion to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and carries over 2.5 billion passengers and US\$ 5.30 trillion worth of cargo annually. Aviation contributes significantly and impressively to the macroeconomic performance by serving communities and regions through clear cycles of investment and opportunity, in both developed and developing countries.

As intergovernmental organization of eight developing countries, D-8 civil aviation cooperation has proved to be very promising. With a population, more than one billion, which is 15% of global population, there is abundance of qualified human resources and market opportunities available in this field among D-8 community. According to ICAO, air passengers carried in both domestic and international sectors of air carriers reached around 250 million people in 2013 in D-8 countries, of which around 34% was contributed by Indonesia, followed by a 30% lead by Turkey.

Despite this positive development, management of civil aviation still has to tackle the basic and fundamental challenge of economic profitability, safety and security regulation, airport management and such other practical commercial challenges as distribution, ancillary revenue, route development, revenue management and customer loyalty. Moreover, needless to say, there is also the challenge of the need for compliance with international standards - as established by

the ICAO. Put it simply, the industry in its entirety, and the national civil aviation authorities concerned, will have to strive to continuously improve and ensure airline quality and safety. This lies at the heart of the whole enterprise.

Distinguished Chairman

Distinguished Delegates,

With this overall picture in mind, let me now turn to the actual state of our cooperation in the field of civil aviation. Looking back and taking stock of our previous works, I can confidently say that the progress we made at the Seventh Meeting in June last year on the four Task Forces was another important step towards laying necessary institutional framework and foundation for future activities of the Working Group. The Meeting also provided the opportunity for the private sector to present its potentials and capabilities - which we all hope would be encompassed and utilized along the way.

Drawing on the past work, we have a number of specific issues to address here at the 8th Meeting as follows:

1. Articulation of concrete cooperation and collaboration programs - possible action plan - under Task Forces cooperation;
2. Increase in exchange views and information on the current development and possible projects among D-8 Directors-General Civil Aviation;
3. Current Development Information from D-8 Countries regarding the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between D-8 and ICAO;
4. The selection of new chair of the Working Group for the next term.

I would like to emphasize that these issues in front of us are specific and concrete. In particular, on the first issue, Member States should undertake to prepare action plan with regard to future objectives and activities of respective Task Forces. This issue is necessary and fundamental to the future work of the Working Group with the aim of promoting civil aviation cooperation in actual terms.

What we need to discuss here, at the D-8 level, concerns collective cooperation in these and other possible and necessary areas to help the Member States make progress in addressing and tackling the issues and concerns of common interest. Sharing of information, experiences, and of course, best practice, in an institutional manner, and capacity building in its broad sense, are what we need to see as the concrete outcome of the activities of this Working Group. Needless to say, the objective assessment of our previous works in civil aviation cooperation is also vital in order to evaluate the progress development as well to streamline the way of works in the field of D-8 civil aviation.

We need to maintain our vigilance and the sense of commitment and responsibility. I am sure everybody here agrees with me that the foundations laid in the previous meetings are solid and reliable, and all we need in our continued efforts - in our two-day Working Group Meeting and subsequently at the practical/technical follow-up level - is to undertake to work for their implementation in action - through concrete policies and measures.

Distinguished Chairman

Distinguished Delegates,

With this overall picture in mind, I would like to seize the momentum to underline my clear preference - and wish - that future meetings on civil aviation will have much more to offer and register in terms of action-oriented and outcome-oriented cooperation.

Looking back at where we started, and looking forward to where we should be headed, the Civil Aviation Authority in each Member State will have to adopt and execute a set of necessary policies and measures, including in the area of harmonization and promulgation of necessary legislation and development of requisite rules and regulations. This requires collective and concrete action among national executive and political bodies.

It is expected that D-8 Civil Aviation sector will highly support and act as main vehicle for D-8 Intra trade. To concretize and facilitate our cooperation, we must focus on developing a good set of concrete project proposals and, once again, workable actionplan.

In conclusion **Mr. Chairman**, I am confident that through our constructive cooperation we will succeed in reaping the fruits of our endeavours in the near future. Once again, I thank the Government of Bangladesh, especially the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, for hosting this important meeting and for their hospitality and I wish you all success in your endeavours and deliberations. At the same time, I would be eagerly awaiting the feedback from our Malaysian friends about their preparedness to host the 9th DGCA meeting in Malaysia at a convenient date next year.

I thank you for your kind audience.