

**Statement**  
**by**  
**Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi**  
**D-8 Secretary-General**  
**at the**  
**10<sup>th</sup> D-8 Meeting of Directors-General and Experts Working Group**  
**on Civil Aviation**  
**23-24 May 2016, Cappadocia, Turkey**

*Your Excellency Mr. Bilal Eksi,*  
*Director General of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Turkey,*

*Distinguished Directors-General and Heads of Delegations,*  
*Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let me begin with registering my deep condolences at the tragic incident of Egypt Air crash claiming life of all the passengers on board the plane. Our hearts and prayers are with the families of the victims and with the people of Egypt in this very tragic moment.

It's an honour attending this important meeting of the Directors-General of Civil Aviation. Let me also express my happiness for the fact that I have attended earlier meetings of civil aviation every year since my assumption of the office of D-8 Secretary-General in 2013. Holding regular meetings of the DGCA on time is demonstrative of the seriousness that you have put in place to further our common purpose. I would like to thank all of you for your commitment and continued support and hope we would be able to consolidate our cooperative partnership as we move forward.

To begin with, let me take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Turkey for hosting this meeting at this wonderful venue in Cappadocia. And I thank the organizers for their warm hospitality and support since our arrival to attend the meeting. I acknowledge and profoundly appreciate the cordial efforts of Your Excellency, Mr. Bilal Eksi, your colleague Mr. Bahri Kesici and the DGCA of Turkey for your continued support to the cause of D-8 in furthering our common agenda of cooperative partnership. I would also like to

express my appreciation to all participants for their presence and look forward to their valuable contribution to the Meeting.

*Excellencies,*

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

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 around 60 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 adds to the mobility of not only the people but also the economy.

To operationalize our cooperation in civil aviation, we have established four task forces based on current scenario and requirement of the industry in order for us to advance our cooperation effectively. These task forces cover the areas of Air Navigation and Air Traffic Management, Safety and Security, Training and Capacity Building and Commercial Issues. Over the past years most of our activities were organised based on activities undertaken by these task forces led by Member States having some competitive advantage on certain areas. However, as you are well aware, the aviation industry is a very dynamic industry and we should be sensitive of the current needs of our stakeholder in the industry.

Therefore, taking into account of the rapidly evolving landscape of the aviation industry, it is crucial that we constantly keep abreast the latest advancement in the industry. To ensure that we are kept well-informed of the latest development in the industry, we should take advantage of our existing collaboration and make optimum use of the task forces that we have created to exchange information and share expertise in the relevant field of the aviation industry.

In this connection, allow me to revisit the Memorandum of Understanding on civil aviation cooperation. It was agreed that the Member States would undertake cooperation and coordination in safety, security, rulemaking activities and legal issues, oversight capabilities, exchange of experts and legislative activities, air transportation, certification and licencing, capacity building, maintenance and navigation, leasing, airport infrastructure, terminal and ground handling issues etc.

While the Task Forces are addressing many of these, many are also left unattended. I hope that the Task Forces would be more dynamic and proactive to explore opportunities for further cooperation in already identified areas as well as emerging areas in order for us to remain updated and reap the benefits of this forum. Task Forces should also organize individual exercises within the scope of their works before Directors-General meet yearly to review progress in each area.

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We had started to engage the private sector since the second DGCA meeting in September 2007 in Iran. The engagement should be intensified to ensure that the private sector could really benefit from our initiatives. Similarly, the private sector should be more proactive and should come up with their own business to business collaboration programmes within the D-8 framework of cooperation.

I am very pleased to note that we have allocated a session specifically for the industry stakeholders in the second day of our meeting. In this session, the industry participants will not only be given the opportunity to meet with the D-8 Civil Aviation Authorities but will also have the prospect to network, negotiate and conduct business to business meetings with other prominent industry players in the aviation industry. In this regard, I would like to request that the industry participants would make best use of this special occasion and leverage on each other's areas of expertise to form strategic alliance among the industry.

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As I have mentioned earlier in earlier occasions, articulation of concrete cooperation and collaboration programs– possible action plan under Task Forces cooperation and increase in exchange of views and information on the current development and possible projects among D-8 Directors-General Civil Aviation have yet to develop. As I have already touched upon the works of individual Task Forces, a comprehensive action plan will not only put our works in a structured manner, but also will help us make best use of our available resources.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the importance of working together towards achieving the desired outcome. I am optimistic that we can achieve maximum benefit from our effort if we re-orientate and strategize our approach in line with the

ever changing landscape of the aviation industry. And it is very important that Member States volunteer to host 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the DGCA in order to ensure continuity and spirit amongst ourselves.

Once again, I would like to thank the government of the Republic of Turkey, particularly the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, for their warm hospitality in organizing and hosting this important meeting. I wish you all success in your endeavours and deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.