

Statement
by
D-8 Secretary General
H.E. Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari
at the
Turkey-Asia Civil Aviation Conference
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*H.E. Ahmet ARSLAN,
Minister, Ministry of Transport, Maritime affairs and Communications of Republic of
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*H.E. Olumuyiwa Bernard ALIU,
President of the Council, ICAO*

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Head of Turkish Parliamentary Group in Asian Parliamentary Assembly, MP, Grand
National Assembly of Turkey.*

*Your Excellency Mr Bahri KESICI,
Acting Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Republic of Turkey*

*Distinguished Directors-Generals, Deputy Ministers of D-8 and Asia Pacific Countries and
Heads of Delegations,*

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalam o Alaikum and Good Morning.

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Turkey-Asia Civil Aviation Conference which is focused on promoting partnerships and cooperation in Asia taking place here in the beautiful city of Antalya.

I wish to express my immense gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Republic of Turkey in general and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Turkey in particular for hosting this event and providing such excellent meeting facilities as well as the warm welcome

and generous hospitality it has accorded to us all. I wish to acknowledge and profoundly appreciate the strenuous efforts of Your Excellency, Mr. BAHRI KESICI, the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Turkey as well as the unflinching support on behalf of the D-8 Organization of fostering the common agenda of cooperative partnership and cooperation. 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,

Our objective here is to provide a forum for policy makers, air transport regulators, industry and other aviation stakeholders through which we shall review the latest trends and developments in the sector, discuss common challenges, and explore practical, effective and collaborative solutions to ensure the sustainable development of air transport in the Asian and Pacific regions.

There is no gainsaying that the aviation industry creates unique opportunities for empowering countries and peoples, regardless of their geographic location. It is a means of allowing people to access what they need: improved livelihoods, healthcare, food, education, safe communities and spaces, etc. Whether it be responses to crises in hours of dire need, humanitarian aid, or leisure activities like vacations and visiting friends and relatives, aviation plays a vital role in promoting social causes and satisfying needs around the world. For all vulnerable groups, as well as for migrant communities and people living in remote and low density rural areas, air transport services are a lifeline to enhance their social inclusion.

Aviation is one of the most “globalised” industries, connecting people, cultures and businesses across national frontiers and continents. It is therefore necessary for all stakeholders and partners to work together to maximize the benefits of air transport and to support the sustainable growth of aviation by connecting more people and more places to the “global aviation grid”.

It is important to point out that aviation adds to the mobility of not only the people but also the economy. According to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) report of 2015, the aviation industry directly and indirectly supports employment of Nearly 63 million people worldwide. Of this, 9.9 million people work directly in the aviation industry. The global economic impact of aviation is approximately US\$2.7 trillion. Furthermore, about 3.6 billion passengers and US\$ 5.3 trillion worth of cargo were carried by the world's airlines in the year under review. A total of 1,402 Commercial airlines operate a fleet of 26,000 aircraft, serving

3,883 airports through a route network of several million kilometres managed by 173 air navigation service providers.

We should therefore work assiduously towards fostering the development of an economically viable civil aviation system (airlines, airports, air navigation services providers, etc.) and enhancing its economic efficiency and transparency while facilitating access to funding for aviation infrastructure and other investment needs, technology transfer and capacity building in order to support the growth of air transport for the benefit of all stakeholders.

I would like to speak on the D-8 cooperation in civil aviation. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that 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. Moreover, we have established four task forces based on current scenario and requirement of the industry. 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 years, most of our activities were organised based on these task forces that are led by Member States having some competitive advantage in relevant areas. However, as you are well aware, the aviation industry is a very dynamic industry and thus we should be sensitive to the current needs of our stakeholder in the industry and constantly keep abreast of the latest advancements in the industry. I hope that D-8 would be more dynamic and proactive in exploring opportunities for concrete collaboration in already identified areas as well as emerging areas in order for us to remain up to date and reap the benefits of our cooperation.

It is my fervent prayer that this gathering of Turkey-Asia Civil Aviation officials would have concrete outcomes in form of projects and programmes. I am in favour of accentuating the need for turning promising ideas into profitable ventures and viable projects so that the people will reap the benefits of our cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asia-Pacific region accounts for the largest share of the world's economy and is a vibrant region in terms of civil aviation growth and it is projected to maintain sound development in the next 15 years. As sharing creates opportunities, Asia Pacific civil aviation should be more open and should work together to create a new situation of mutual benefits and win-win outcome. Asia Pacific countries are characterized by a rich diversity of economic and natural environment and air transport had its optimum advantage in enhancing connectivity.

Asia Pacific civil aviation communities should therefore respect one another, accept another's differences, learn from one another, and turn diversity and differences into vitality and driving force for development. It is only in this way that they could bring out the strengths and potentials of all parties and facilitate orderly and free flow of regional economic factors, efficient allocation of resources and deep integration of markets

The wider trend of liberalization is likely to provide a further boost to the region's expanding tourism industry, trade connections, and air connectivity. According to ICAO's long-term traffic forecasts, Asia and Pacific is expected to be the fastest growing region in terms of passenger traffic, at an annual rate of 6.4 per cent up to 2032. For freight traffic, the region is projected to grow 5.1 per cent annually for the same period as passenger traffic, the second highest growth rate among all regions. This increase will, in turn, drive growth in the economic output and jobs that are supported by air transport in the next decade. By 2034, it is forecast that the impact of air transport and the tourism it facilitates in Asia and Pacific will have grown to support 44.3 million jobs (54 per cent more than in 2014) and a USD 1.7 trillion contribution to GDP (171 per cent increase). The projected expansion of the aviation sector in the region will also bring the need for effective regulatory oversight that keeps pace with this growth, as well as the recruitment and training of the necessary skilled manpower. On their part, the national governments should consider how to mobilize greater domestic resources, access new external resources and improve public expenditure management.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm honoured to be here with you, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of D-8 and Asia Pacific Countries, Director Generals of the Civil Aviation of and the Distinguished Delegates. I am extremely honoured and happy to meet you all.

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

I thank you for your kind attention.