

Statement by Toshiyuki Onuma,

Senior Deputy Director-General of the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB)

ECAC President Mr. Alessio Quaranta,

ECAC Executive Secretary Ms. Patricia Reverdy,

Distinguished Directors General of Civil Aviation,

Honorable guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I am Toshiyuki Onuma, Senior Deputy Director-General of the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB)

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your invitation. It is a great honor for me to be the first Japanese representative to participate in this esteemed gathering.

I had the privilege of working with Mr. Quaranta as the head of Italian delegation before the pandemic, particularly during bilateral air talks between his team and my team. I was truly impressed by his leadership demonstrated there. I believe ECAC has the right person at the right time as the President. Under his guidance, I am confident that ECAC will continue to thrive and grow.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Director General Mr. Damien Caze for welcoming us to France and for the fabulous dinner reception last night. JCAB and I have maintained extensive exchanges with him and his team. Most recently, my team was warmly welcomed earlier this year.

This is my second time to visit this beautiful city of Strasbourg. More than ten years ago, while working for the local government division of the Cabinet Secretariat, I had the opportunity to visit the Council of Europe for research purposes. At that time, I was impressed by the combination of the modern and ancient ages this city presented to me, and this time, the views from the platform of the cathedral I enjoyed last weekend reminded me of the importance of the sustainability we are discussing in our context. I am not quite sure I will be able to reach the platform again in 2050 by myself, however, I understand it is the duty of my generation to try our best effort to sustain this world for future.

It is evident that Japan and Europe have kept and will keep a close relationship across various fields. In terms of safety, we are advancing collaborative initiatives through the Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement. In the field of air transport, Japan has recently ratified the Japan–EU Horizontal Agreement and the Japan–Croatia Air Services Agreement, which will definitely enhance further development of the traffics between Japan and Europe. Furthermore, just recently, my colleague from the Air Traffic Control Department engaged in fruitful discussions with many stakeholders in Europe. I look forward to deepening our cooperation in various fields in the future.

Cooperation is crucial not only in bilateral context but also in multilateral contexts. The upcoming ICAO Council Presidency election underscores the importance of multilateral collaboration in global aviation governance.

In this connection, I am honored to announce Japanese Government formally decided to nominate me as the candidate for the election to the next President of the ICAO Council. I would like to request your support in this regard. I am committed to fostering dialogue and unity within a multilateral framework, recognizing Europe's pivotal role in global aviation.

I deeply appreciate the supportive comments and advice I have received so far from many of you and your governments regarding my candidacy. With shared values and concerns such as sustainability and the rule of law, I am confident that with your steadfast support, we can strengthen our cooperation on these matters as well.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your invitation. I look forward to having further discussions and exchanges of views with all of you, including at the upcoming 14th Air Navigation Conference and beyond. Let us work together to make our cooperative relationship even more substantial and effective.

Thank you for your attention.