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ROC regrets that it has not been invited to once again take part in the ICAO Assembly

The government of the Republic of China deeply regrets that President of the ICAO Council Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, despite the last precedent, has not invited the director-general of the ROC Civil Aeronautics Administration to lead a delegation to the 39th ICAO Assembly, which is to be held in Montreal, Canada, from September 27 to October 7. The ROC government urges the international community as well as ICAO to recognize the need for Taiwan's involvement in efforts to ensure international aviation safety.

The ICAO Assembly is convened once every three years to discuss and formulate aviation regulations and standards to be jointly upheld by countries around the world, so that civil aviation safety can be enhanced in an orderly manner and a seamless sky can be achieved. Taiwan is situated at a pivotal location, and the Taipei Flight Information Region administered by Taiwan plays an important role in air transport in East Asia. Only through

continued participation in the ICAO Assembly and related meetings will Taiwan be in a position to gain insight into the latest developments of important ICAO-related issues, take appropriate measures, and contribute to international aviation safety and development.

The ROC government reiterates that Taiwan's objective in seeking participation in ICAO is to ensure aviation safety through cooperation with other countries and realize ICAO's vision of a seamless sky. Its participation should not be subject to any political considerations. The ROC appreciates the efforts made by its diplomatic allies, the executive and legislative branches of likeminded countries, as well as individuals and groups—through public statements, resolutions, commentaries, and other approaches—to encourage ICAO to support Taiwan's professional, pragmatic, and constructive participation.

Taiwan's absence from the 39th ICAO Assembly this year will be a major loss for the international community. The ROC expresses strong regret and dissatisfaction at any attempts to suppress Taiwan's international participation. It will continue to pursue a meaningful participation in international organizations and protect its national rights and interests.

The international support that the ROC has received has added considerable momentum to its future efforts to push for ICAO participation. Based on its steadfast diplomacy, as well as the principle of reciprocity, the ROC will continue to closely cooperate with other countries and stakeholders to establish meaningful and durable partnerships, and to seek participation in ICAO and other UN specialized agencies in an appropriate manner. (E)