His Excellency President of ICAO Council Dr. Aliu,

Honorable Ministers, President and Secretary General of Asia Parliamentary Assembly, Secretary General of Developing-Eight Organization,

Estimable participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Turkey, Welcome to Antalya, the pearl of Mediterranean,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all participants for being with us today in Ankara in such a warm atmosphere with the occasion of Turkey-Asia Civil Aviation Conference.

Dear Guests,

As is known, aviation is an underlying and driving catalyzer for tourism and directly contributes to the economy of a country as an important determining factor.

*Today civil aviation represents a very huge industry which is also very strategic and vital. Including direct, indirect and induced effects, aviation is currently estimated to create more than 2.7 trillion GDP contribution to the global economy. Today, it is estimated that, civil aviation is creating more than 9.9 million direct jobs, and more than 62.7 million supported jobs.*

*Despite of the very young age of aviation (almost only a 100 years of existence), today direct GDP contribution of aviation is estimated to be more than 660 billion USD. This GDP contribution of aviation has already surpassed giant sectors like automotive, pharma and textile. In fact, the industries vitalizing today’s economy are highly dependent on aviation.*

*35 % of the total world trade as value is being transported by air. In our century, the governments must globalize their economies and private entities must globalize their products and services. To be able to survive in the highly competitive global economy, the companies must be involved in global value chain.*

*In the recent years, Oxford Economics made a very important announcement. According to their experts, that if we can increase the global connectivity by 10%, $55 billion annual incremental increase is expected in global outputs, each year.*

*I sincerely believe that, conducting this kind of Events- in the manner of regional cooperation efforts- with creating collaboration platform helps to enlighten the decision makers and the professionals of civil aviation.*

*Distinguished Delegates,*

*Frankly saying, there are many numbers and statistics to talk about on aviation’s success and importance, but I do not want to consume your time. However, there are some unfavorable numbers also which are needed to be mentioned. If the airports cannot host the existing and foreseen demand; by 2035, 110 billion USD additional revenue which means 2 million additional jobs and 225 million passengers will be lost. Please, kindly note that today airports are hosting almost 60% of direct employment in aviation. I know that this sounds a very dramatic and pessimistic estimation, however, in the recent years, ACI Europe and EuroControl made an announcement which have verified and support this pessimist estimation. ACI Europe and EuroControl announced that with foreseen expansion planning into account, it is predicted that 237 million passengers (12% of the demand) will not be accommodated during the next 20 years in European Airports. Moreover, according to IATA and Airbus, 39 of 47 existing aviation mega cities aka hubs are already congested as Level 3 and Level 2. The red dots or the term “level 3” point out the airports where current conditions make it impossible to meet the demand.*

*In the recent years, ACI Europe and EuroControl made an announcement which have verified and support this pessimist estimation. ACI Europe and EuroControl also announced that with foreseen expansion planning into account, it is predicted that 237 million passengers (12% of the demand) will not be accommodated during the next 20 years in European Airports.*

*To speak more frankly, I sincerely believe that it can be commented as Civil Aviation is facing an internal bleeding situation which is likely to create a global chain effect.*

*The studies indicate that Asia region will dominate the future air traffic. Today, The Asia Pacific region is achieving an unprecedented growth rate in aviation. This high growth rate is expected to continue in the coming decades, an observation backed up by the large number of aircraft scheduled for future delivery to carriers in the region.*

*By 2030, it is estimated that air travel in Asia will be greater than Europe and North America combined.*

*Not only is the growth of Asia Pacific air transport a major economic generator in its own right, the resulting increase in connectivity to/from/within the region facilitates economic growth and development in a wide spectrum of industries in all regions. However, we believe that the bottlenecks and unfavourable numbers I have mentioned are likely to affect this region more intensely with respect to the expected traffic increase in the region.*

*In this respect I sincerely believe that the cooperation and collaboration is the key element to:*

* + *Pave the way of favorable progressions,*
  + *Prevent any foreseen or unforeseen unfavorable developments.*

*Today, within this respect, we will have the opportunity to discuss the importance of cooperation, the liberalization policies, its reflection and outcomes specifically in the Asia Region with three different Panels.*

*Also, all States have the opportunity to make bilateral meetings with other States/ Organization and Private Companies.*

*As you know, Antalya is not hosting only this Conference but also EurAsia Air Show which brings world’s leading aerospace companies, civil aviation, military and defence authorities and governmental representatives from more than 70 Countries. I believe these two important events will be a good opportunity for new partnerships and cooperation.*

*This Conference cannot achieve its purpose without your precious support.*

*Please enjoy the beauties of Turkey during your visit*

*I wish all of you a fruitful, interactive and productive conference and meetings.*

**Bahri KESİCİ**

**Acting Director General**