

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

October 13, 2022

Mr. Ali Ehsassi
Chair
House of Commons Standing Committee
on Foreign Affairs and International Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ehsassi:

I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Canada to the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development entitled, "*Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization*" on June 13, 2022.

The safety, security, efficiency and environmental sustainability of the civil aviation industry is in everyone's interest. The mission critical work undertaken by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) underpins global prosperity. As a founding member and the host State of ICAO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, Canada plays a crucial role in supporting a global civil aviation community dedicated to connecting people and transporting goods across the world in safe and secure manner.

Aviation is a core element in maintaining international connectivity, which is essential to global commerce and tourism. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the global civil aviation industry is facing unprecedented challenges that require stakeholders from around the world to work together towards a safe and sustainable recovery. Collaboration strengthens people-to-people links and fuels prosperity. Everyone benefits when we work together to identify common interests and negotiate creative arrangements that advance these interests.

Canada supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations where there is a practical imperative and where Taiwan's absence would be detrimental to global interests, including at the World Health Organization (WHO). Canada supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO technical meetings, as well as the World Health Assembly. Taiwan's meaningful participation is in the interest of the international community for the benefit of global health, including to advance pandemic preparedness and response.

While United Nations membership is a prerequisite for full participation at ICAO, including in this year's 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly, Canada remains supportive of other options for Taiwan's meaningful participation within the organization.

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In 2019, Canada along with the other G7 member states and the European Union issued a joint communiqué supporting the “substantive participation of all active members of the international aviation community in ICAO forums.” The joint communiqué further noted that “excluding some of its members for political purposes compromises aviation safety and security.”

The Taipei Flight Information Region provides navigation support to tens of millions of air passengers each year, including from Canada, Taiwan and other regions across the Indo-Pacific. Based on this safety imperative, Canada, in its role as Chair of the Safer Skies Consultative Committee, invited Taiwan to participate in the inaugural and second-annual Safer Skies Forum under the title “Chinese Taipei” in December 2020 and March 2022, respectively. In April 2022, the Safer Skies Consultative Committee accepted Taiwan’s application to join the group as an Observer, under the name Taiwan Civil Aeronautics Administration.

While remaining consistent with our One China Policy, our government will continue our multifaceted engagement with and on Taiwan, which includes collaborating on trade, technology, health, democratic governance and countering disinformation, while continuing to work to enhance peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development for the diligence and commitment undertaken in your work.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.