

**Remarks by Mr. Zhao Dong, Chairman of Xiamen Airlines
in HLPF Discussion on SDG 13 – Climate action**

Friday, 12 July 2019, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Conference Room 4

Honorable Chair H.E Mr. Omar Hilale, Deputy Executive Secretary Ovais Sarmad, Distinguished Delegates,

Good Morning! The impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, present challenges for travel and the aviation industry. According to the environment report of ICAO, that changes to the atmosphere brought about by rising global temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions, will affect airplane's ability to fly, while rising sea levels will affect airports. Therefore, as a representative of aviation industry, we believe that it is very important to advance the "climate action" of the Sustainable Development Goals, and implement the *Paris Agreement*. This is why two years ago I signed an agreement here with United Nations to make Xiamen Airlines the first airlines in the world to support the SDGs with a Boeing 787 dreamliner SDG livery airplane.

After the agreement was signed, we have formulated the *Xiamen Airlines Sustainable Development Plan* under the guidance of the 17 SDGs and launched 12 major projects and 95 items classified into 4 categories: continuous safety, low-carbon operations, green services, and benefits sharing. As many as 70 energy-saving and emission-reducing measures are developed each year, such as filling drinking water in accordance with passenger load factor and cleaning the engine dynamically. Currently, we are looking for alternatives to plastic cabin supplies, such as bamboo pulp cups. In terms of low-carbon operations, Xiamen Airlines operates one of world's youngest fleets, with an average age of only 5.7 years, which outperforms its counterparts in fuel efficiency and aerodynamic performance, hence effectively reducing carbon emissions. In fact, the average fleet age of airlines in some developed countries is more than twice that of Xiamen Airlines. There are even a large number of old models still in operation, with a service age of twenty or thirty years.

In recent years, by introducing 12 fuel-efficient Boeing 787 and ordering 70 new-model airplanes equipped with the world's latest energy-saving

engines, we have reduced carbon emissions by 20% and 14% respectively, compared to alternative models. For five years, our fuel consumption per ton-kilometers has decreased by 14.8%, surpassing the global average improvement in fuel efficiency (remarks: IATA data show that the global average level is 2.3% per year, or about 11.5% in five years), fulfilling our commitment to the UN to reduce emissions by 300,000 tons. In future, we look forward to more efficient and cost-effective clean energy solutions that will lead the aviation industry to sustainable development.

We are also very honored to have the world's first Boeing 787 dreamliner SDG livery airplane, called "United Dream". We have designed theme flights in line with 17 SDGs and promoted the Goals globally. We've already organized four theme events, which have made 750 million times of exposure. In addition, CCTV has covered this special airplane at least five times which increased the influence of the SDGs.

The CORSIA scheme, in my view, falls short of fairness. Climate change is caused by the emissions accumulated throughout history. The scheme should not charge in terms of Emission Growth and exempting those left over by history. Those who emits more CO₂ in real terms are supposed to take on greater responsibility. But based on the current CORSIA scheme, it is the developing countries that shoulder the major responsibility of carbon emission reduction. This deviates from the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)", which is apparently unfair to the newly globalized airlines. I believe, in order to reduce aviation emission globally, we must follow the guidance of the UNFCCC and the *Paris Agreement*, and establish a governance model that is based on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and supplemented by international consultation and dialogue.

Thank you.