

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA

(Montreal, 17 September 2007)

DRAFT DECLARATION

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Whereas the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its Annexes provide the essential framework required to meet the safety needs of a global aviation system;

Whereas the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is recognized as the global forum for civil aviation which works to achieve safe, secure and sustainable development of civil aviation through cooperation amongst its Contracting States;

Whereas the 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly urges Contracting States to adopt the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) objectives to reduce aircraft accidents and to reduce the worldwide accident rate:

Whereas the Council of ICAO has agreed that a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa should be developed and presented to a high-level meeting;

Whereas, under ICAO's leadership, the Plan calls for collaboration by the regulatory agencies and industry in the implementation of initiatives aimed at rectifying aviation safety deficiencies;

Considering the Libreville Resolution and Plan of Action adopted by the Ministers Responsible for Air Transport in Africa in May 2006, whereby the Ministers undertook to reduce the rate of aircraft accidents in Africa to the world average by 2008;

The Meeting hereby commits to reinforce the African safety framework by:

- 1. recognizing the important role of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), a specialized agency of the African Union, and calling upon it to exercise leadership in the implementation of the Plan;
- 2. endorsing the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa;
- 3. *recommending* that the Plan be built upon tangible implementation initiatives which are already taking place in the Africa-Indian Ocean area;
- 4. *urging* Contracting States in Africa to commit to the implementation of the Plan, in accordance with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP);
- 5. *invoking* the heightened leadership role of ICAO, supported by strong management and coordination amongst States, to continue assisting in the development of an integrated approach to safety initiatives in Africa;
- 6. *urging* all Contracting States to share with other Contracting States critical safety information which may have an impact on the safety of international air navigation and to facilitate access to all relevant safety information;

- 7. *calling* for the expeditious implementation of safety management systems across the aviation industry in Africa;
- 8. *calling* for African States to demonstrate the political will to address aviation deficiencies;
- 9. *urging* African States and industry to closely coordinate their efforts with ICAO in order to ensure optimum benefits to aviation safety in Africa and to reduce duplication in effort; and
- 10. *inviting* the Assembly to adopt the draft Assembly resolution.
