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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

SEVENTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION OF AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN REGION (AFI-DGCA/7)

(Niamey, Niger, 20 July, 2018)

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET (SAATM)

(Presented by AFCAC)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents Update on the status of implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). The African Union (AU) with its desire to give a stronger and more ambitious impetus to the continent’s socio-economic development and integration agenda elaborated on some flagship projects including the establishment of the SAATM in view of their high potential for changing the face of Africa. The establishment of the SAATM through the full implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalisation of air transport market in African (YD) in the context of the AU Agenda 2063 was the first to be launched during the 30th AU Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 29th – 30th January 2018.

Action Required by the 7th DG-CA of AFI meeting:-

Paragraph 5 of the Working Paper

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It should be recalled that during the 24th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held from the 30th to the 31st January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Heads of States and Government (HoSG) concerned by the slow pace of implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of air transport markets in Africa, and in support of the initiative of Champion States to immediately and unconditionally open their respective air transport markets adopted a Declaration on the Establishment of Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) by 2017.
- 1.2 Furthermore, the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union, while adopting the establishment of the SAATM emphasized on the critical role it plays in boosting

Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area. The Assembly also called upon to Strategic Partners to provide resources to AFCAC to adequately carry out its activities as the Executing Agency of the YD.

- 1.3 Eleven (11) Champion Member States namely: **Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe initially** declared their solemn commitment to the immediate and full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017. The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) which is already the designated Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision had the same had its functions extended to include the implementation of the f Single African Air Transport Market .
- 1.4 The African Union Commission (AUC) , the Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of the SAATM and other Startegic Stakeholders and Partners are working together with AFCAC to the expedite implementation of all the provisions of the YD, and on establishment of the SAATM .

2. **DISCUSSION**

- 2.1 The Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of the SAATM key tasks includes (i) following up of implementation progress of its Road Map of specific activities for implementation of both the YD and the realisation of the SAATM, (ii) provide guidance to the AUC, RECs ,AFCAC and other actors facilitating implementation of the Road Map, (iii) spearhead the advocacy campaign to urge the rest of the Member States to join the SAATM; and (iv) reports the progress made in the implementation of actions therein to the Assembly of the AU.
- 2.2 The 30th AU Summit held on January 2018 officially launched the establishment of SAATM ;adopted the Institutional and legal Frameworks of the YD , called upon African States who have not yet signed the solemn commitment to do so; ensure that Members States that have joined the market harmonize their BASA to be compliant with the provision of the YD, ensure awareness and dissemination of key continental aviation frameworks especially the YD Regulatory and Institutional Texts and the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP); undertake capacity building of Member States and RECs on the application and domestication of those instruments ,and expedite the mobilisation of resources for the operationalisation of the EA to enable it adequately carry out its functions in the management and supervision of the established SAATM.
- 2.3 Through continuous advocacy works by AFCAC, AUC, AFRAA and other Partners , the number of member States' party to the Solemn Commitment to SAATM increased from 11 to 26 ,namely :- **Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Capo Verde, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe.**

3. **OUTCOMES OF THE 4TH MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP MEETING (MWG/4), LOMÉ, TOGO -28TH OF MAY 2018**

- 3.1 The MWG/4 decided on a Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) to serve as a multilateral instrument that ensures that all bilateral air services agreements are compatible with the Yamoussoukro Decision and will be automatically enforceable by any Member State that is signatory to the Solemn Commitment for the establishment of the SAATM.

3.2 The Ministers/Directors General of the representatives of the various States signed the MoI. In all Fourteen(14) Member States , (namely: *Benin, Capo Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo*) present at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting signed the Memorandum of Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

3.3 Twelve countries also undertook bilateral consultations on harmonisation of their Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASAs) that are aimed at removing market restrictions provisions that are incompatible with the YD. The following states: *Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo. Cabo Verde and Burkina Faso* reported that they already have YD compliant BASAs with all the States that attended the meeting.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 There is a momentum to implement fully the decision establishing the Single African Air Transport Market, by member States in particular on the harmonisation of all Bilateral Air Services Agreement to ensure the full compliance with the Yamoussoukro Decision.

4.2 Awareness and dissemination of key continental aviation frameworks, especially the YD Regulatory and Institutional Texts and the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP) remain priority to encourage more States join the SAATM and fully implement the provisions of the TD.

4.3 Capacity building of Member States and RECs on the application and domestication of those instruments planned to be undertaken by the Executing Agency and Partners

4.4 Mobilisation of resources for the operationalization of the Executing Agency (EA) to enable it adequately carry out its functions in the management and supervision of the established SAATM remain among the challenges of AFCAC.

5. **ACTION BY THE MEETING:**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the content of the working paper ;
- b) All Member States are urged to subscribe to the Solemn Commitment to the full implementation of the YD and establishment of the SAATM ;
- c) All Member States Party to the Solemn Commitment shall sign the Memorandum of Implementation (MOI) of the YD by States Parties to the Solemn Declaration on the establishment of the SAATM;
- d) Member States are requested to assist the Executing Agency of the YD in resource mobilization, including secondment of Air Transport Experts, hosting planned Workshops and Seminars on Regulatory Instruments of the YD and capacity building Programs.

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