



ICAO Africa/Middle East Air Transport Virtual Symposium

Promoting and harnessing the benefits of liberalization
Nairobi, Kenya
30 – 31 August 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

Air transport is now an essential component of the global society, a crucial driver of economic, social and cultural development, which has become an indispensable means of transport, providing a worldwide transportation network, creating jobs and facilitating trade and tourism. Notwithstanding the fact that air transport has grown faster than most other industries, doubling in size every fifteen years, the sector is still facing regulatory barriers, constraints, uncertainty and/or economic fragmentation, which impede efficiency, generate frictions and hinder air connectivity improvement.

Harnessing and maximising the benefits of air transport requires enabling regulatory environments and quality infrastructure commensurate with the level of predicted traffic growth. Air transport policies and regulations should aim to facilitate transformation and new technologies. Efforts in this respect must focus on the liberalization of market access and the establishment of good regulatory practices and governance for air transport, including modernization, harmonization and convergence of regulatory approaches and regimes of States, and the promotion of connectivity, competition, transparency and choice for consumers.

Africa and the Middle East regions have adopted different regulatory approaches in the liberalization of air transport. While Africa has a regional liberalization framework through the adoption of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single Africa Air Transport Market (SAATM), the Middle East has more or less pursued liberalization through bilateral approaches by States. The regional effort on liberalization between Arab States through the Damascus Agreement of 2007 has not provided tangible benefits. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Middle East had remained the fastest growing region for passenger and cargo traffic since 2011 and the African aviation market has the most potential for growth out of all global regions.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health risk mitigation measures including travel restrictions and borders closure, have resulted in unprecedented depressed travel demand and significant disruptions to businesses and supply chains in global air transport. As the crisis threatens the very existence of the industry, while developing industry recovery strategies, States in Africa and the Middle East Regions have the opportunity to reassess their regulatory frameworks with a view to put in place measures that would allow the industry to do business in a more favourable operating environment and expand into new markets.

ICAO has provided guidance to States in order to keep critical supply chains operating globally, assist in expediting the repatriations of stranded citizens, support the operations of necessary crew and personnel, and ensure that urgently needed humanitarian and emergency air service were maintained. The outcome of the third phase of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) provides recommendations and guidance to States to further support their endeavours in coping with the significant fallouts caused by the crisis.

Building on the CART recommendations and guidance as well as efforts from States, the objectives of this Air Transport Symposium are to:

- reassess the impact of COVID-19 on air transport in Africa and the Middle East;
- share good practices on the economic and financial recovery measures put in place by States in the two regions;
- promote ICAO policies and guidance on economic regulation of international air transport including recommendations of the CART Report on economic and financial measures; and
- allow participants to share experiences and agree on concrete measures on building a favourable regulatory environment as well as a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate, in support of aviation recovery and development, notwithstanding the impact of pandemic.

The two-day virtual event will provide a good atmosphere and forum for exchange of ideas and information, as well as for sharing of experiences among policy makers, air transport regulators, industry representatives, aviation professionals and other stakeholders, particularly from Africa and the Middle East regions.



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Air Transport Symposium

Day 1 – Monday, 30 August 2021
Air Transport Symposium

Time (UTC)	
1100-1130	Opening Ceremony
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome remarks by ICAO Regional Director, ESAF, Mr. Barry Kashambo; - Special remarks by Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission - H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid; - Special remarks by Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States, Head of Economic and Social Sector - H.E. Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali; and - Keynote address by Secretary General of ICAO – Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar.
1130-1300	Session 1 – Addressing the challenges of COVID-19 and States’ aviation recovery efforts (Panel Discussion)
	<p>COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health risk mitigation measures resulted in unprecedented depressed travel demand and significant disruptions to businesses and supply chains in global air transport. Efforts are being made by ICAO, States, industry and other stakeholders, on the recovery of the industry. <i>This session will focus on addressing the impact of COVID-19 and economic and financial measures put in place by Africa and the Middle East States on the recovery of their industry.</i></p> <p>Moderator: → Mr. Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, Director, Air Transport Bureau, ICAO.</p> <p>Panellists: → Mr. Tefera Mekonnen Tefera, Secretary-General, AFCAC; → Mr. Kamil Al-Awadhi, IATA's Regional VP for Africa and Middle East; → Mr. Abderahmane Berthé, Secretary General, AFRAA; → Mr. Abdul Wahab Teffaha, Secretary General, Arab Air Carrier’s Organization (AACO);</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Capt. Haitham Misto, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Commissioner Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) JORDAN; and ➔ Mr. Gilbert Kibe, Director General, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority.
1300-1310	Break
1310-1410	Session 2 – Harmonizing Regional Air Transport Regulatory Framework (Panel Discussion)
	<p>The objective of liberalization is to create a favourable environment in which air transport players can operate and prosper, and consumers benefit from enhanced services, additional choices and better value. While there has been a general desire for fostering regulatory convergence in the areas of consumer protection, competition and taxation regulations and policies for international air transport, achieving this has remained a challenge. <i>This Session will focus on the examination and the achievement of common tools, policy guidance and best practices for regional harmonization and compatibility of regulatory regimes on consumer protection, competition and taxation regulations and policies for international air transport especially with situation created by the pandemic.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ H.E. Sherif Fathi Attia, member of International Partners for Aviation Development Innovation and Sustainability Organization (iPADIS) Board and former Minister of Aviation of Egypt. <p>Panellists/Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ H.E. Mr. Abdenbi Manar, Director General, Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO); ➔ Dr. Eng. Elijah Chingosho, Director General, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe; ➔ Mr. Peter Amaleboba, Legal Adviser, African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC); and ➔ Mr. Fathi Atti, Senior Vice President, Aeropolitical and Corporate Affairs, Qatar Airways.
1410	End of First Day of the Symposium
Day 2 – Tuesday, 31 August 2021	
1100-1200	Session 3 - Cooperation and Cross-Border Investments in Airlines (Panel discussion)
	<p>During the Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6), it was acknowledged that States had used various means in the liberalization of air carrier ownership and control including unilateral, bilateral, regional, plurilateral and multilateral approaches. At the 40th ICAO Assembly, it was agreed that ICAO should continue the development of an international convention on foreign investment in airlines. The liberalization of air carrier ownership and control will encourage cross-border investments and airline mergers. The impact of COVID-19 on air carriers has further underscored the urgent need for encouraging cross border investments in order to save airlines from bankruptcy and collapse. <i>This Session will focus on the various regulatory approaches to, and the benefits of, liberalizing air carrier ownership and control; and highlight the opportunities for cooperation and cross border investments for airlines in Africa and the Middle East.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Captain Musa Nuhu, Director General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority. ➔ ICAO Presentation <p>Panellists/Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Mr. Allan Kilavuka, Chief Executive Officer, Kenyan Airways; ➔ Mrs. Paule Assoumou Koki, Director General, Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA); ➔ Mr. Gabriel Mocho Rodriguez, Civil Aviation and Tourism Services Section Secretary, International Transport Worker's Federation; and ➔ Captain Jack Netskar, President of the Federation, IFALPA.
1200-1300	Session 4 – Impact of Levies on Air Transport Sustainability (Panel Discussion)
	<p>The past decade has seen the proliferation of various taxes on the sale and use of air transport, particularly in Africa. The imposition of taxes is considered counterproductive because in many cases the revenue raised is far less than the economic benefits that are relinquished because of reduced demand for air travel. Addressing this problem has become necessary especially in view of the need to stimulate traffic to facilitate the recovery of the industry. This session will examine whether taxes on air transport are sustainable ways for governments to generate revenue and how to build robust cost-benefit analyses for decision-makers to show the impacts of excessive levies on aviation growth.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Capt. Haitham Misto, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Commissioner Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) JORDAN. <p>Panellists/Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Mr. Ing. Charles Kraikue, Director General, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority; ➔ Mr. Ali Tounsi, Secretary General, ACI, Africa; ➔ Ms. Funke Adeyemi, Regional Director, Advocacy and Strategic Relations for Africa, IATA; ➔ Capt. Fola Akinkuotu, Managing Director/CEO, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA); and ➔ Mr. Sanjeev Gadhia, CEO, Astral Aviation
1300-1310	Break
1310-1410	Session 5 – Stimulating Investments in Financing the Development of Aviation Infrastructure (Panel discussions)
	<p>Based on the outcome of the ICAO World Aviation Forums and the adoption of the Declaration and Framework for Plan of Action for Development of Aviation Infrastructure in Africa, <i>this session will discuss how to obtain sustainable investment to aviation infrastructure projects, in conjunction with the recovery efforts from the impact of COVID-19. Particular focus will be on: a) building a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate; b) creating good governance such as enabling institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and c) consolidating planning and development efforts for aviation, tourism and trade infrastructure in an appropriately balanced development of transport modes, including multi-modal and urban planning initiatives.</i></p>

	<p>Moderator:</p> <p>➔ Mr. Prosper Zo’o Minto’o, ICAO Regional Director, WACAF.</p> <p>➔ ICAO Presentation</p> <p>Panellists/Speakers:</p> <p>➔ Mr. Solomon Quaynor, Vice President, Infrastructure, African Development Bank (AfDB);</p> <p>➔ Dr. Ali Awdeh, Director Research Department, Union of Arab Banks;</p> <p>➔ Mr. Louis Bakienon, Director of Air Navigation Operations, ASECNA; and</p> <p>➔ Mr. Raphael Kuuchi, Consulting Director Government, Legal and Industry Affairs, AFRAA</p>
1410-1430	<p>Wrap up session</p> <p>Communique</p> <p>➔ Mr Mohamed Smaoui – Acting ICAO Regional Director, MID.</p>
1530	End of the Symposium

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