

DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE AIR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

21 to 23 November 2018

We, the officials and representatives of the States, territories, regional and international organizations participating in the ICAO AIR TRANSPORT MEETING on promoting connectivity for sustainable air transport development hosted by the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in Georgetown, Guyana from 21 to 23 November 2018; convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the African Union; to proffer practical solutions to remove existing regulatory impediments to air transport liberalisation and to finance the development of quality aviation infrastructure;

Recalling the ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization adopted by ICAO Assembly Resolution A39-15, whereby ICAO Member States resolved to actively pursue the continuous liberalization of international air transport to the benefit of all stakeholders and the economy at large;

Recognizing that air transport plays essential roles in connecting States to regional and global markets, and facilitating travel, tourism and trade, as well as generating economic growth and development, while providing jobs and fostering other socio-economic benefits;

Recognizing that harnessing and maximizing the benefits of air transport requires enabling regulatory environments and quality infrastructure, commensurate with the level of predicted traffic growth;

Recognizing the various on-going initiatives and commitments by ICAO, States and regional bodies to develop and foster an efficient and sustainable civil aviation industry at national, regional and global levels;

Considering the benefits of ICAO *No Country Left Behind* initiative in supporting States to comply with ICAO global standards and the need to continue to promote and strengthen aviation safety and security, especially within CARICOM Member States;

Recalling the ICAO Statement on the Development of Air Transport in North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America adopted at the ICAO Regional Air Transport Conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7 to 9 October, 2014; the Medellin Statement on Tourism and Air Transport for Development adopted at the Joint World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)/ICAO High-level Forum on Tourism and Air Transport for Development in Medellin, Colombia, 14 September 2015; and the Conclusion adopted by the South American Civil Aviation Directors for the Sustainability of Air Transport Growth (SAM Plan) in Asuncion, Paraguay 4 to 6 December, 2017;

Recalling the Declaration to promote Connectivity through the Development and Sustainability of Air Transport in the Pan American Region - Vision 2020-2035, adopted at the Fourth ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF/4) in Fortaleza, Brazil, 17 to 19 September 2018;

Recalling the outcome of the Special Event on Promoting Air Links between African States and the Diaspora, in Accra, Ghana, 30 March, 2017;

Declare to:

1. Actively pursue the continuous liberalization of international air transport to the benefit of all stakeholders and the economy at large in accordance with the ICAO Long-Term Vision for International Air Transport Liberalization;
2. Continue to support the growth of air cargo services and work on removing regulatory impediments and operational constraints to allow for more operational flexibility and cost effective air cargo services on regional and global basis;
3. Establish good regulatory practices and governance for air transport including the modernization, harmonization and convergence of regulatory approaches and regimes of States, and the promotion of connectivity, competition, transparency and choice for consumers;
4. Pursue the coordinated development of air transport and tourism through harmonized air transport and tourism policies, bearing in mind the risk associated with overdependence on international tourism;

5. Consolidate the planning and development efforts for aviation, tourism and trade infrastructure in an appropriately balanced development of transport modes including multimodal and urban planning initiatives;
6. Support the development of national and/or regional aviation infrastructure programmes and plans with strategic infrastructure targets that are consistent with ICAO's Global Plans and according to national and regional needs;
7. Encourage financial institutions to alleviate constraints on financing development for the aviation sector including quality infrastructure investments;
8. Continue to cooperate and collaborate on enhancing air connectivity and harmonizing visa processes and travel documents to support the development and growth of tourism and trade;
9. Enhance regional cooperation in aviation safety and security through strengthening support mechanisms such as the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Organization (CASSOS) to ensure compliance with ICAO global standards in order to further reap the socio-economic benefits of aviation; and
10. Support the cooperation between the African Union and CARICOM in developing and implementing a Plan of Action on the establishment of air links, tourism, trade and investment in line with the African Union 'Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit'.

Done in Georgetown, Guyana, 23 November 2018

