



ICAO

FIRST UNWTO/ICAO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Tourism and Air Transport in Africa
Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cabo Verde
27 to 29 March 2019

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1, PREPARATORY SESSION

Wednesday, 27 March 2019

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:15 **Introductory Remarks: Master of Ceremonies [TBD]**
Nomination and Election of the Chairperson

09:15 – 10:30 **SESSION 1—*Air Transport and Tourism Policies: Regulatory convergence to maximize and balance their benefits* (Panel discussion)**

Air Transport and tourism depend heavily on each other and are essential engines of trade and economic growth for both developed and developing countries. Despite the synergies, there can be conflicts between aviation and tourism policies due to the difficulties of States in balancing the interests of their airlines and the optimum development of their tourism industries. Separate sectorial policies result in a fundamental disconnect, which constitutes a severe deterrent towards the development of both sectors. How do we enhance policy coherence between the two sectors, harmonize the regulatory frameworks, and prevent separate sectorial policies? How can we strike a balance to maximize the overall benefits of tourism and air transport in the national economy? What is the current status of Africa's regulatory framework and what is its impact on tourism and air transport (the Lomé Declaration and the related Action plans both for Air Transport and for Tourism)? How can Africa benefit from and implement the joint UNWTO and ICAO Medellín Statement on Tourism and Air Transport for Development? How can the African Governments promote cooperation and compatible decision-making among transport and tourism authorities and other ministries in charge of related portfolios, including finance, economic planning, energy, environment and trade? What are the challenges encountered by tourism stakeholders in reflecting tourism business interests in national and regional air transport policies?

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 2— *Connectivity and Seamless Travel: Best practices to serve tourists and passengers (Presentations)***

Aviation and tourism are a customer-focused economic sector. While there is no single definition of air connectivity, it can be viewed as the ability of a network to move passengers involving the minimum of transit points, which makes the trip as short as possible with optimal passenger satisfaction at the minimum price possible. The realization of seamless travel can improve overall travel experience, which in turn fuels tourism demand. With the recent launching of the Single Africa Air Transport Market (SAATM), open skies over Africa may soon be a reality, building the necessary regulatory framework to increase international intra-Africa travel. How do we optimize the flow of passenger traffic through the air transport system? How can we generate sufficient demand for direct air services between African sub-regions, especially between the East-West coasts? How well do current air service agreements (ASAs) contribute to connectivity and what are the prospects of air transport liberalization? What constitute the bottlenecks and slowdowns of seamless travel in the air transport system? What regulatory schemes can be used or developed to assure essential air services to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)? What are the existing best practices and how could they be extended and adapted to other regions? What are the factors influencing airline choices for different market segments (the intercultural dimension)?

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30 **SESSION 3— *Funding and Financing for Development: Pragmatic measures to build a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate (Panel discussion)***

Infrastructure deficiencies in the aviation and tourism sectors have long been an issue in Africa. While plans are in place to develop and modernize aviation infrastructure, relief is years away at best. In the meantime, there will be lost opportunities for creating jobs and spurring economic growth. Another issue is the proliferation of taxes on tourism and air transport despite the fact that the industry recovers a vast majority of its own infrastructure costs through payments of user charges, rather than being financed through taxation. Revenue raised by taxes can often be outweighed by the relinquished economic benefits as a result of dampened demand for air travel. This Session will focus on a) the creation of good governance and enabling environment to build business confidence and encourage investments; and b) the consolidation of planning and development efforts for aviation and tourism infrastructure in multi-modal and urban planning initiatives. What are the challenges of financing development projects related to the tourism and air transport sectors, particularly in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS? What are the success stories in financing tourism and air transport projects? How do consumers perceive taxes, charges and others levies and how to ensure transparency of taxes and charges to passengers and tourists? Why is the limited volume of international public finance and assistance for development currently available for aviation and tourism infrastructure projects?

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:15 **SESSION 4— *Travel Facilitation: Advancing visa facilitation in supporting economic growth* (Presentations)**

Travel facilitation aims at maximizing the efficiency of border clearance formalities while achieving and maintaining high-quality security and effective law enforcement. Allowing passengers/tourists to cross international borders safely and efficiently contributes significantly to stimulating demand, enhancing competitiveness of States, creating jobs and fostering international understanding. In spite of the great strides made in recent decades in facilitating tourist travel in Africa, there is still room for considerable progress. For example, electronic visa processes and delivery could make travel more accessible, convenient, and more efficient without a diminution of national security. States should also look into increasing cooperation on bilateral, regional and international travel facilitation regimes. How can new technologies be used to make travel more accessible, convenient and efficient? How to define and implement policies which facilitate international travel and tourism while ensuring the security and integrity of traveller identification and border controls? How well do e-passports, e-visas and other documentation deal with emergent threats to security? How could African States learn from other effective best practices?

17:15 – 18:00 Preparation of the draft Cabo Verde Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan and summary remarks of Day 1: TBC

Day 2, Ministerial Conference

Thursday, 28 March 2019

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Jose Goncalves, Minister of Tourism and Transport and Minister of Maritime Economy of Cabo Verde (Cabo Verde)

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

H.E. Jorge Carlos Fonseca, President of Cabo Verde TBD

09:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 1 – Ministerial Discussion**

Introductory comments UNWTO/ICAO

Building on the outcomes of the Preparatory Session and in support of the United Nations (UN) *Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, Ministers will discuss the common conceptual tools, policy guidance, and best practices that might help to mainstream the priorities of the aviation and tourism sectors in the national, regional and global agendas. Within the framework of the Lomé Plan of Action

(2017 – 2019) of the AU¹, this Session will also address the remaining challenges in Africa that the economic and political blocks cannot solve on their own but UNWTO/ICAO could provide support.

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 2 – Ministerial Discussion**

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 16:00 **SESSION 3 – *Review and finalisation of the Draft Cabo Verde Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan***

Ministers will review a draft Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan, taking into account discussions and deliberations during the previous session. This Session will also discuss the implementation and follow-up mechanism to the Action Plan at a national, regional and global level.

16:00 – 16:30 Summary Remarks UNWTO/ICAO

19:00 – 22:00 **Gala Dinner**

Day 3, Ministerial Conference

Friday, 29 March 2019

09:30 – 10:00 **Introductory Remarks: TBC**

10:00 – 10:30 **SESSION 4 – Reading out of the Cabo Verde Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan**

10:30 – 11:00 **Official approval and signing ceremony of the Cabo Verde Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan**

11:00 – 11:30 **Closing Remarks**

11:30 – 11:45 **Family Photo**

12:15 – 13:30 **Lunch Break**

15:00 – 18:00 **Technical visit (optional)**

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¹ Declaration and the Plan of Action 2017 – 2019 adopted at the First Ordinary Session of the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, in Lomé, Togo on 17 March 2017 and endorsed at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council through Decision EX.CL/Dec. 970 (XXXI)