

# Speech to ICAO Air Transport Symposium

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols reserved to respective ranks and grades!

As my predecessors have very well pointed out most issues at hand for a sustainable development of Air Transport, I shall make mine their points and cut through to the position of the African Civil Aviation Commission, on a complementary and intrinsic base.

The African Civil Aviation Commission, the specialized body of the African Union Commission for aviation matters, is honored to take part of the present ICAO Air Transport Symposium, which aims at defining strategies and tools for a sustainable Air Transport worldwide, and I repeat worldwide.

I am personally humbled to transmit the gratitude of AFCAC to ICAO and all organizers of this important event, which shall set the pace for great success of the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Air Transport.

Indeed, as well stated in the Preamble of Earth Charter for sustainability in all laudable walks of life, and I quote with some additions in reference to our aviation community:

We all stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, aviation history in particular! A time when humanity must choose its future, the Aviation Community fully included. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures, views and life forms, we are one human family and one Aviation Community with a common destiny. From our present works, we must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society, Air

Transport included and founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of the aviation community, declare our responsibility to one another and to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

In the same school of thought, many years before, the Preamble of the Convention of Chicago, our Holy Book of the Aviation Industry, states, as well, and I this time quote it in French:

- CONSIDÉRANT que le développement futur de l'aviation civile internationale peut grandement aider à créer et à préserver entre les nations et les peuples du monde l'amitié et la compréhension, alors que tout abus, je répète tout abus, qui en serait fait peut devenir une menace pour la sécurité générale ;
- CONSIDÉRANT qu'il est désirable d'éviter toute méfiance entre les nations et les peuples et de promouvoir entre eux la coopération dont dépend la paix du monde ;
- EN CONSÉQUENCE, les Gouvernements soussignés étant convenus de certains principes et arrangements, afin que l'aviation civile internationale puisse se développer d'une manière sûre et ordonnée et que les services internationaux de transport aérien puissent être établis sur la base de l'égalité des chances et exploités d'une manière saine et économique, ont conclu la présente Convention à ces fins.

D'où la noble mission de l'OACI inscrite au paragraphe (D) de l'article 44 de la Convention, qui se stipule comme suit : « répondre aux besoins des peuples du monde en matière de transport aérien sûr, régulier, efficace et économique. »

In the framework of a greater and competitive African Economic Community, African States have agreed to develop Air Transport in Africa by adopting and implementing the so-called

Yamoussoukro Decision (YD), which in our sense is the best tool and way to insure a Continental sustainability of Air Transport in Africa and beyond.

On these preceding bases, African States urge that all strategies and tools for a sustainable Air Transport consider the following:

- All Parties, including States and regional blocs, should refrain from taking unilateral measures and legislations that could negatively affect international air transport;
- All stakeholders to this symposium and the upcoming Conference, should take into consideration the disparity in development and put in place appropriate safeguards and mechanisms under the guidance of ICAO ;
- ICAO should continue to remain the sole determinant of all issues related to Air Transport, specially its impact to economic development worldwide;
- ICAO should continue to provide support and assistance wherever needs and good initiatives arise;
- ICAO should continue to set up its leadership role and ensure equity and fairness in strategies and tools for a sustainable air transport;
- ICAO should develop guidelines on dispute settlement mechanisms related to sustainable international air transport.

On this note, on behalf of AFCAC, let me express once again, our sincere gratitude and best wishes for successful deliberations to ALL.

Thank you so much – Merci à TOUS!