

First Meeting of Africa-India Ocean (AFI) Air Traffic Services Providers

(Dakar, Senegal , 26 – 28 November 2002)

ALMADIES (DAKAR) DECLARATION

The Air Traffic Services Providers of the Africa – Indian Ocean Region at their first meeting held in Dakar, Senegal from 26 to 28 November 2002,

Considering the vital role which civil aviation plays in the socio-economic development, exchanges, trade and regional integration ;

Considering States' obligation to shoulder their national and international responsibilities in the field of air navigation services, in particular the effective implementation of ICAO Standards, Recommended Practices SARPs and Procedures ;

Mindful of their responsibilities and the confidence that their respective Governments have in them ;

Conscious that a sustainable efficient African air transport system remains a tremendous challenge ;

Having reviewed the deficiencies which affect air navigation services in their respective countries/FIRs and hamper its orderly development at regional level conscious that deficiencies in any part of the world might have adverse repercussions on other regions ;

Recognizing that it is essential to adopt a cooperative approach with a view to resolving problems of common interest, and enhance the general situation of air navigation services in their airspaces

DECLARE their commitment to:

- a) Give the highest priority to full implementation of ICAO Standards, Recommended Practices (SARPs) and Procedures as well as Recommendations in the ICAO Air Navigation Plan for Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI), with a view to eliminating the most serious deficiencies in air navigation services within the AFI Region ;

- b) Implement effectively the recommendations of ICAO audits and evaluations relating to air navigation services ;
- c) Co-operate amongst themselves by establishing or becoming party to existing mechanisms or joint or regional arrangements aimed at eliminating deficiencies ;
- d) Co-ordinate amongst themselves and co-operate in the conduct of all air traffic management related activities, including the harmonization of their regulations;
- e) Give priority to aviation training centres available in the Region to train their personnel ;
- f) Make joint contacts with a view to obtaining training fellowships from donor organizations ;
- g) Conclude bilateral/multilateral cooperative arrangements aimed at optimizing the use of the expertise available in the Region and facilitate the exchange of personnel as appropriate including basic training and on-job training.

Also **DECLARE** their commitment to :

- a) Promote the provision of safe, efficient, cost effective and enhanced management of air navigation services in the AFI region.
- b) Address common issues problems through co-ordinated action and co-operation and by mobilizing expertise and knowledge, development cost effective proposals for their resolution, and develop common positions relating to the Air Navigation industry ;
- c) Cooperate with planning bodies in the field of air navigation services and related areas ;
- d) Involve themselves as much as possible in cooperation with users in the selection and implementation of future standardized technology, agreement on measures of performance and providing an information exchange ;

- e) Support CNS/ATM system implementation plans with appropriate and adequate operational and economic analysis ;
- f) Enhance the on-going regional and inter-regional coordination activities.

EMPHASIZE the need to:

- a) Establish appropriate regulatory environment to oversee the provision of air navigation services ;
- b) Create/strengthen regional or sub-regional operating agencies for the joint management of air navigation facilities and services ;
- c) Organize regular and systematic consultations between users and service and facility providers to discuss financial and operational issues relating to air navigation so as to ensure that the facilities and services provided remain fully responsive to users needs/requirements ;
- d) Institutionalize periodical meetings of AFI ATS providers under the aegis of ICAO for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest and co-ordinate implementation of corrective measures for the elimination of common deficiencies.

NOTE the tendency to resort to the private sector for the funding and management of air navigation services and request ICAO to organize seminars/workshops on commercialization;

AGREE to consider the concept of a “Single Sky” in the AFI Region ;

RECOGNIZE the need to achieve the integration and interoperability of sub-regional satellite telecommunication networks in the AFI Region, in coordination with satellite provider organizations ;

REQUEST ICAO to prepare with the participation of all AFI ATS providers and users, guidance material for a regional strategy on airspace management in the AFI Region especially the concept of a “Single Sky” for consideration by AFI Air Traffic Services providers at their next meeting.

Done in Dakar on 28 November 2002