

CONCEPT NOTE ON PREPARING ESAF STATES FOR ATCONF /7:

KEY ACTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), to be held at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada, from 16 to 20 November 2026 under the theme “*Air Transport: Powering Global Connectivity, Economic Development and Resilience in a Dynamic World*” will address critical issues shaping the future of international air transport. Its objectives include advancing economic regulatory frameworks to adapt to evolving market trends and technologies by leveraging data; enhancing industry resilience by addressing workforce, supply chain, market access, emergency response gaps and consumer protection; mobilizing blended financing to support civil aviation infrastructure; shaping economic policy foundations for innovation and emerging technologies, strengthen institutional and human capacity; and enabling sustainable and inclusive growth in air transport.

1.2. It is therefore essential to engage ICAO ESAF Member States in advance of ATConf/7 to ensure effective preparation, including the alignment of regional expectations, coordination of preparatory actions, and development of coherent strategies that will enhance the region’s participation and strengthen its collective contribution on the outcomes of the Conference. In this context, the Regional Office plans to organize a preparatory webinar to support these coordinated efforts.

1.3. The webinar will serve as a platform to:

- a) Brief States on ATConf/7 objectives, structure, and agenda;
- b) Highlight preparatory requirements and timelines;
- c) Discuss regional priorities and challenges; and
- d) Facilitate coordination for effective representation during the conference.

1.4. The outcomes of the webinar will inform the African Air Transport Convention & Expo 2026 (Lomé, Togo, 8 to 12 June 2026) either through presentation or a dedicated panel to ensure seamless continuity between the Preparatory Webinar, the Convention & Expo, and ultimately ATConf/7.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

- 2.1. Inform ESAF States about ATConf/7 themes, expected deliverables, and participation modalities.
- 2.2. Identify regional priorities and develop common proposals for ATConf/7.
- 2.3. Provide guidance on preparatory actions required from States before the conference.
- 2.4. Establish a roadmap for coordination leading up to African Air Transport Convention & Expo and ATConf/7.

3. DATE AND TIME

- 3.1. 19 May 2026 from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

4.1 The target audience for this initiative comprises key actors responsible for shaping and implementing air transport policy and strategy across the region. These include:

- Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs)
- State Air Transport Policy Units
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Industry stakeholders and partners

5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 5.1. Enhanced understanding of the ATConf/7 Agenda and preparatory requirements.
- 5.2. Development of a draft list of regional priorities and positions.
- 5.3. Establishment of a coordination mechanism for ESAF/AFRICA States.

END