

**OPENING SPEECH BY HON. HAMZA JOHARI,
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA AT THE ICAO INTERNATIONAL AIR
LAW TREATY WORKSHOP THIRD EDITION**

**HYATT REGENCY, THE KILIMANJARO HOTEL, DAR
ES SALAAM, 25th FEBRUARY 2026**

- Mr. Michael Gill, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),
- Ms. Alice Serpa Braga Della Nina, Chairperson of the ICAO Legal Committee and Attorney for Federal Agencies, Attorney's Office, National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC), Brazil
- Mr. Vuai H. Ali, Board Member, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA),

- Mr. Salim Msangi, Director General, of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA),
- Dr. Ally Possi , Solicitor General of the United Republic of Tanzania,
- Mr. Antonio NGUA MBA EYANG, Vice-Minister of Civil Aviation and Aeronautical Infrastructures of Equatorial Guinea,
- Adv. Eustina Guta, Board Member, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe,
- Mr. Bavoo Junus, President of the Tanzania Public Bar Association (TPBA),

- Distinguished Experts from ICAO, Member States and International Organizations,
- Officials from Ministries and Civil Aviation Authorities; members of the judiciary; aviation legal practitioners; and other distinguished professionals;
- Distinguished participants, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen,
All protocols observed



Good Morning!

It gives me great pleasure and honour to stand before you at the official opening of this important ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop Third Edition here in the United Republic of Tanzania.



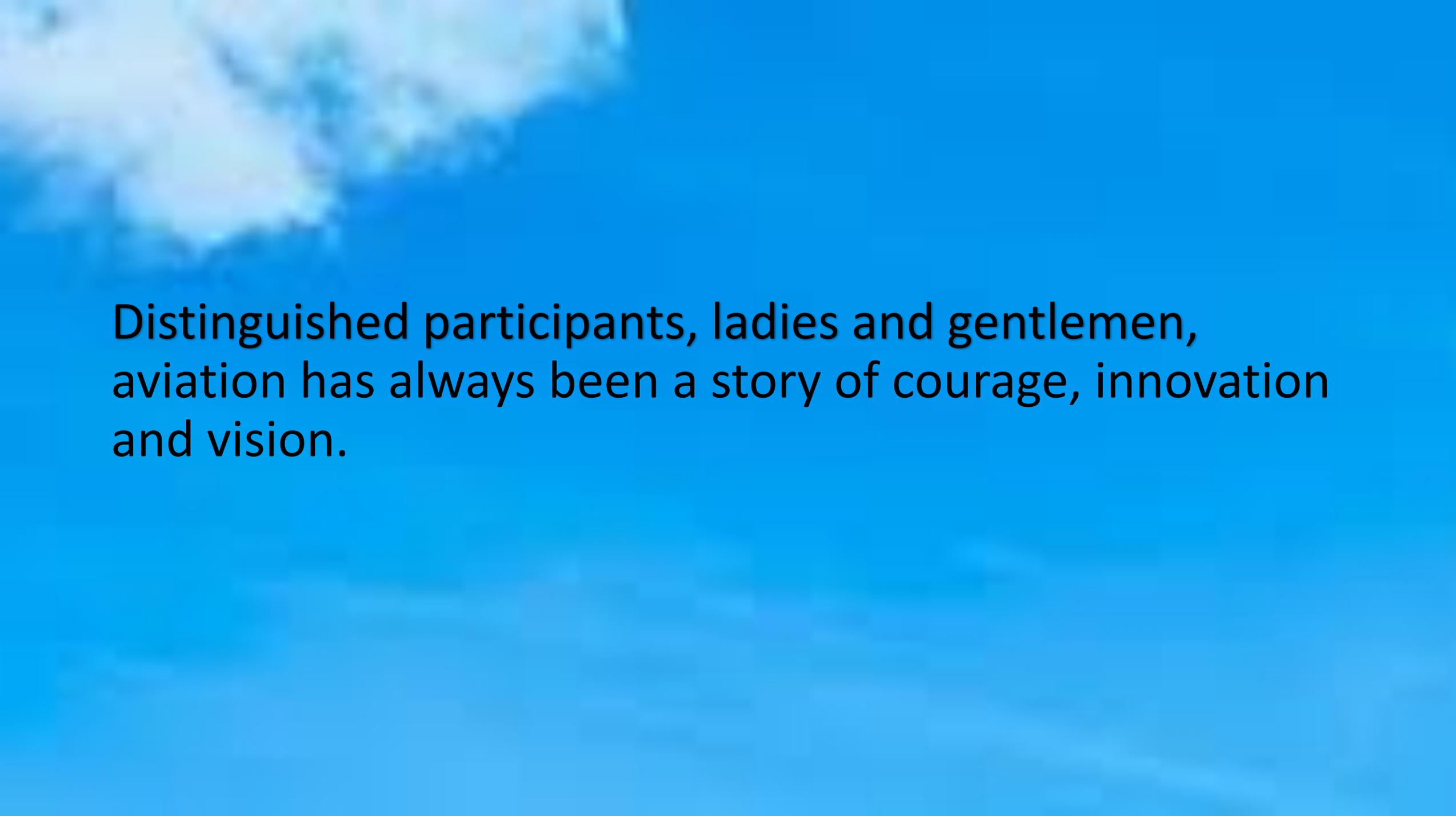
Allow me, first and foremost to express my profound gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of good health and for granting us the opportunity to convene safely on this important occasion in the vibrant coastal city of Dar es Salaam, the heart of Tanzania's aviation industry where the breeze of the Indian Ocean meet our nation's growing aspirations in aviation.

It gives me great pleasure to see you once again and to re-join the aviation community in a different capacity. Having previously served within the regulatory framework, I remain humbled to join such a distinguished audience of representatives from international and regional organizations, legal professionals, aviation experts and colleagues from across the African continent and beyond.

Your presence here today demonstrates our shared mission of strengthening safety, security and legal certainty in our skies



I extend sincere appreciation to ICAO and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority for their continued efforts in strengthening aviation safety through SARPS adoption, treaty ratification, domestication and international collaboration. The decision to host this workshop in Tanzania reflects confidence in our country's growing role in shaping the international legal landscape of civil aviation.



Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,
aviation has always been a story of courage, innovation
and vision.



As Orville Wright once observed, *“The airplane stays up because it doesn’t have the time to fall.”* This simple yet profound statement reminds us that progress in aviation and indeed in air law depends on continuous forward movement.

Douglas Adams humorously described flying as

“learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss.”

While light-hearted, it captures the ingenuity and calculated precision that aviation demands, qualities equally required in crafting effective legal frameworks.

Eddie Rickenbacker stated,

“Aviation is proof that given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible.”

The evolution of international aviation law from the Chicago framework to modern conventions demonstrates that when nations unite with determination, complex global challenges can indeed be addressed.



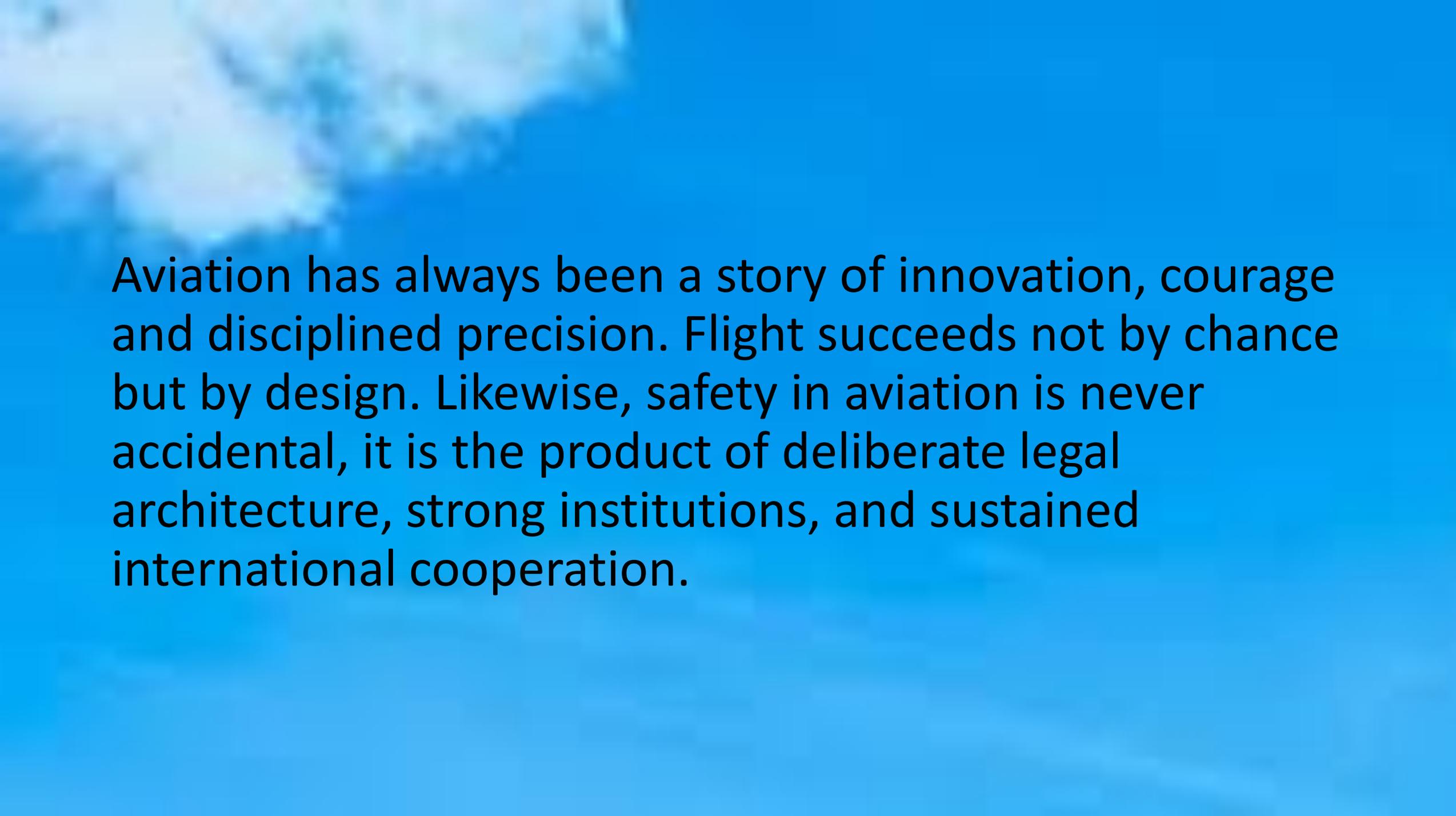
It is also said in aviation circles that,

“The engine is the heart of an airplane but the pilot is its soul.”

Likewise, while treaties and regulations form the structure of aviation, it is regulators, lawmakers, judges and aviation professionals who give life and direction to the system.



And above all, we are guided by a fundamental principle: “***Safety is no accident.***” Safety is the product of deliberate legal design, strong oversight institutions, international cooperation and unwavering commitment to compliance. It is precisely for this reason that gatherings such as this workshop are indispensable.

A background image of a bright blue sky with soft, white, wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Aviation has always been a story of innovation, courage and disciplined precision. Flight succeeds not by chance but by design. Likewise, safety in aviation is never accidental, it is the product of deliberate legal architecture, strong institutions, and sustained international cooperation.



Safety is no accident. It is the outcome of carefully crafted treaties, harmonised regulations, effective oversight systems and unwavering commitment to compliance. It is precisely for this reason that gatherings such as this workshop are indispensable.

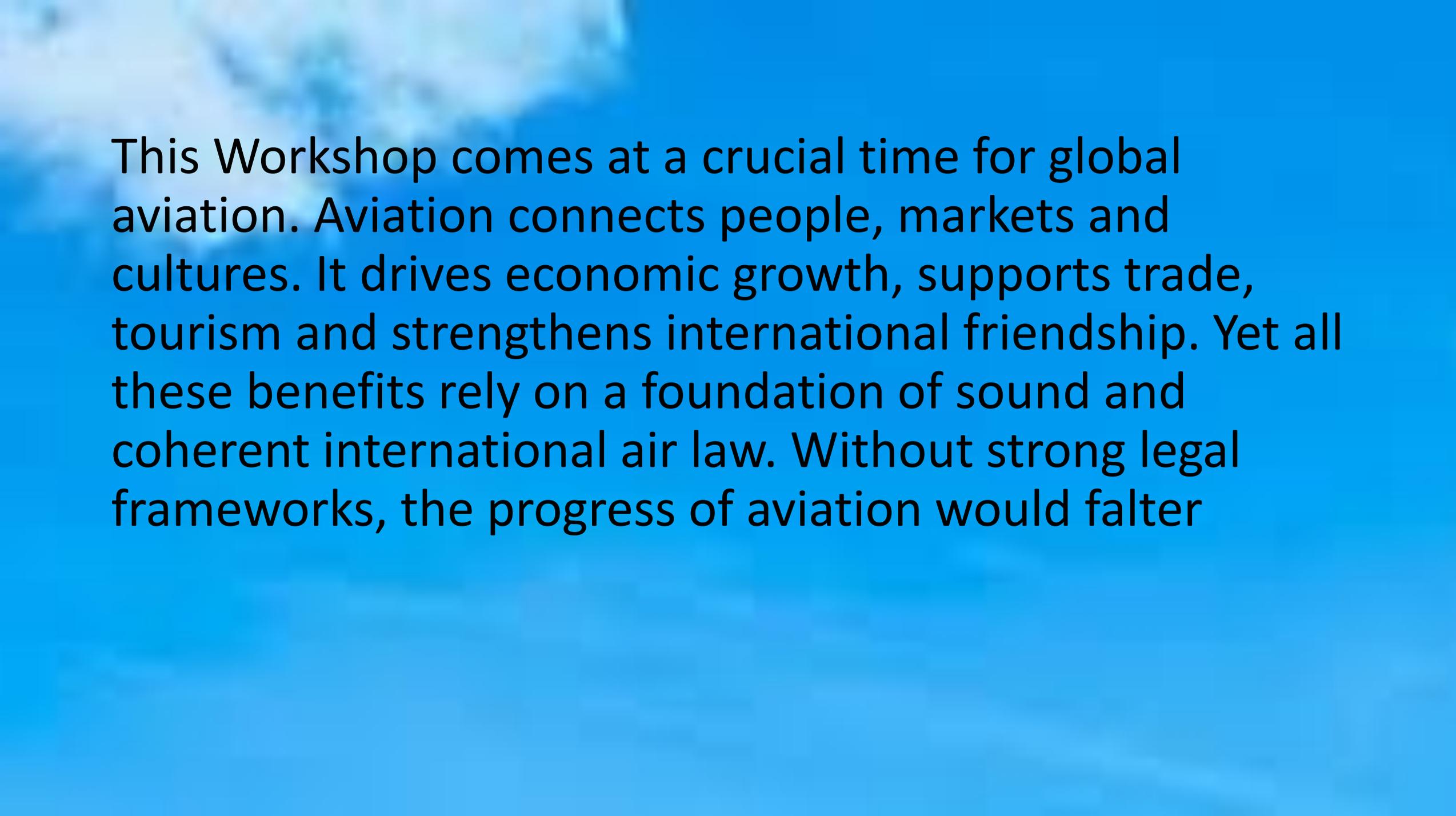


Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Tanzania is proud to be home to prominent international legal institutions, to name: African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

Although the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) completed its mandate in 2015, its legacy institutions and archives remain in Tanzania and the Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) continues some functions in Tanzania. All these institutions are situated in Arusha, in Northern Tanzania, which is also known as the *Judicial Capital of Africa*.



This legal heritage underscores our firm commitment to the rule of law, both on land and in the skies.



This Workshop comes at a crucial time for global aviation. Aviation connects people, markets and cultures. It drives economic growth, supports trade, tourism and strengthens international friendship. Yet all these benefits rely on a foundation of sound and coherent international air law. Without strong legal frameworks, the progress of aviation would falter

I am aware that, the discussions during this Workshop will be centred on:

- The Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Montréal, 1999);
- The Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing, 2010);
- The Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Beijing, 2010) and
- The Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Montréal, 2014).

These instruments form the legal backbone of modern international civil aviation

They:

- Protect passengers and carriers through harmonised liability regimes;
- Strengthen global aviation security against unlawful interference and terrorism;
- Clarify jurisdictional gaps relating to onboard offences; and
- Promote accountability across borders.

They represent our shared commitment to justice, safety and the rule of law in international aviation.



Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the aviation sector is evolving faster than ever before. Artificial intelligence, unmanned aircraft systems, digitalisation and increasing cybersecurity threats are reshaping the operational landscape.



These developments bring immense opportunities for innovation but also complex legal and ethical questions. We must therefore rethink how we legislate, regulate and enforce aviation laws. The legal frameworks of yesterday cannot adequately address the realities of today. Progress is possible when law and policy move hand in hand with technology and development



This workshop therefore provides a vital opportunity not merely to review treaties but to strengthen their effective implementation. Let us use this distinguished gathering to share experiences, develop new insights and shape legal frameworks that serve both current and future generations.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, no country can achieve aviation safety and security in isolation. By its very nature, aviation transcends borders. For this reason, regional and global cooperation remains indispensable. I therefore urge continued collaboration among all States, ICAO, AFCAC, EAC-CASSOA, SASO and other stakeholders to harmonize regulatory systems, strengthen institutional capacity and promote knowledge sharing.



We must ensure that no state is left behind in implementing international air law instruments and that all countries benefit from a strong, connected and safe aviation system.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the United Republic of Tanzania remains fully committed to its obligations under international air law instruments. Tanzania has already ratified and domesticated the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Montréal, 1999), and is in advanced stage for ratification of Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing, 2010) and Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Beijing, 2010) and Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Montréal, 2014).

A background image of a bright blue sky with soft, white, wispy clouds. The clouds are more concentrated in the upper left and middle sections, leaving the lower right area clearer.

Tanzania is also gradually liberalising its air transport market and has also commenced the process towards joining the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) a flagship initiative of the African Union's Agenda 2063, aimed at liberalising and integrating Africa's aviation industry.



Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, between 2016 and 2024, during my tenure as Director General of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority, and before I was appointed the Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania, I worked hand in hand with the Ministry of Transport, the Office of the Attorney General, and international partners, to implement reforms that upgraded infrastructure, enhanced regional integration, and improved service delivery. These efforts demonstrate Tanzania's firm belief that sustainable aviation growth must be supported by robust legal and institutional frameworks.



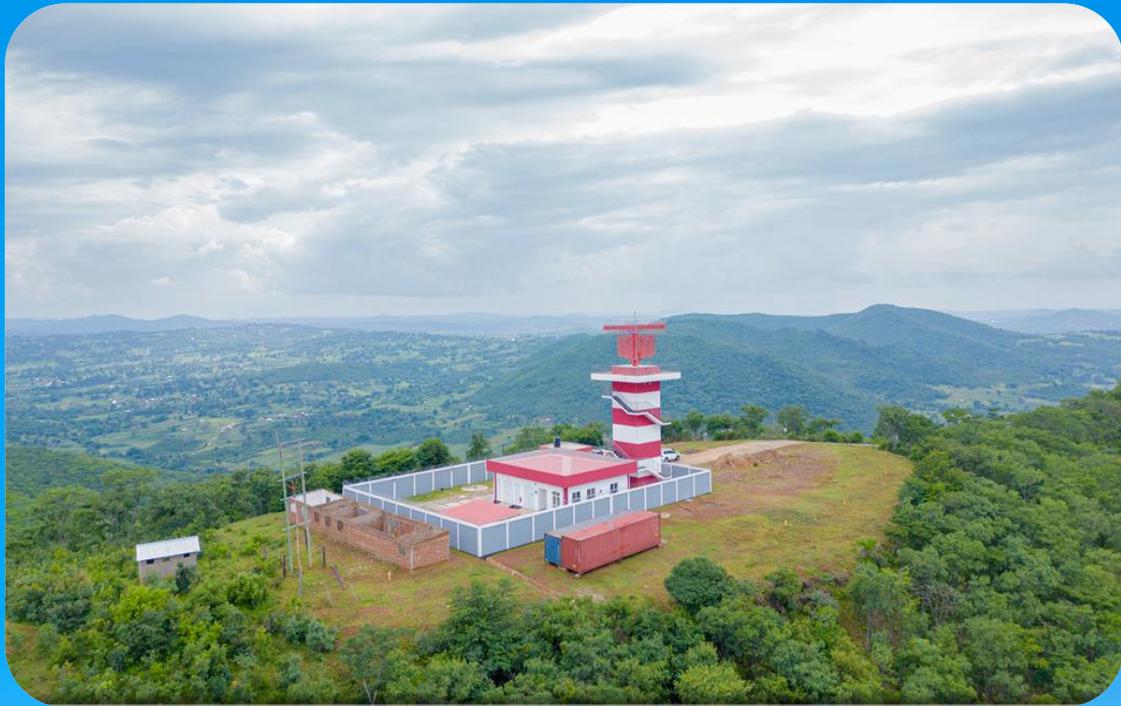
I had the privilege of working with a dedicated team to modernise Tanzania's aviation landscape. That period marked a revolutionary transformation of the Authority by strengthening the regulatory system, enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring compliance with ICAO safety and security standards. These reforms laid the foundation for a more resilient, competitive and globally respected aviation sector



My appointment as the Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania is an honour that reflects the collective progress of Tanzania's aviation sector as a pillar of national development.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, as the workshop sessions commence, I encourage each participant to engage openly and constructively, share experiences, ideas and challenges. Let this platform be used not only to learn but to inspire progress across nations.

The discussions held here can influence national reforms, strengthen regional frameworks and ensure that international aviation law continues to evolve in step with technological and operational developments.





Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, I wish to commend the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) for organizing this timely and impactful workshop.

Let us renew our shared commitment to ratification, domestication and effective implementation of international air law instruments.

Together, we can ensure that the skies remain safe, secure, resilient and sustainable for generations to come.





Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, with these remarks, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to declare the ICAO International Air Law Treaty Workshop Third Edition officially open.

Thank you very much for your kind
attention and I wish you all fruitful
deliberations

