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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5525849 Fax: (251-11) 5525855
Website: www.africa-union.org

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

7-8 APRIL 2016

WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK DECLARATION ON AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

WINDHOEK DECLARATION ON
AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

We, African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation Security and Facilitation, meeting in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia from 4 to 8 April 2016, on the occasion of the Conference on aviation security and facilitation in Africa organized by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC);

Mindful of the Convention on International Civil Aviation done in Chicago on 7 December 1944;

Mindful of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community signed in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;

Mindful of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted in Algiers, Algeria on 14 July 1991 and entered into force on 6 December 2012 which provides requisite conditions for the African Union Commission to build a framework to fully and effectively provide response to ever changing threats on the continent including civil aviation;

Mindful of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000, particularly Articles 14, 15 and 16 thereof which entrust the AUC with the role of coordination in the transport, communication and tourism sectors;

Mindful of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a single African air transport market under the AU Agenda 2063 which requires the improvement of aviation security and facilitation for passengers, baggage, cargo, mail, courier and express parcels as stated in Article 6 of the Yamoussoukro Decision and for which the African Civil Aviation Commission has been entrusted the role of Executing Agency;

Mindful of the third AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Air Transport held under the theme "Achieving a single, safe and secure airspace for Africa's development and integration" which adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11 May 2007, the Declaration on aviation security in Africa and subsequently endorsed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Accra, Ghana on 29 June 2007, through Decision EX.CL/Dec.359 (XI) and supplemented by specific policy contained in the African Civil Aviation Policy adopted by the Second African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Transport conducted under the theme: "Consolidating the transport sector for the stimulation of economic integration in Africa" endorsed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government through Decision EX.CL/Dec.682 (XX);

Mindful of the strong links between the Strategic Objectives of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in recognition that safe and secure aviation and global connectivity contribute essentially to socio-economic development.

Mindful of the Conference organised by ICAO, in cooperation with the AU Commission and AFCAC, held from 5 to 7 November 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the development of an African aviation security Roadmap;

Mindful of the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on Civil Aviation Security in Africa by the African Ministers in charge of aviation security together with regional and international organizations, on 13 April 2010, in which they affirmed their commitment to preventing unlawful interference with civil aviation in all forms, with particular attention being placed on countering terrorist threats against civil aviation;

Mindful of the Regional Conference on aviation security, held in Dakar, Senegal, 17 to 18 October 2011, where African States acknowledged ICAO's leadership role and agreed to intensify cooperation to enhance aviation security;

Mindful of the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP) adopted by the Second Conference of the AU Ministers of Transport, in Luanda, Angola on 25 November 2011 and the strategies and commitments developed in the Declaration, subsequently endorsed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 January 2012;

Mindful of the meeting of African Ministers of Transport held in Luanda, Angola, from 21 to 25 November 2011 which deliberated on aviation security and agreed on several issues notable of which was the need to establish a Regional Aviation Security Group and set up a Unit of Research of Counter Terrorism within the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and to coordinate the implementation of the Abuja Declaration and Roadmap;

Mindful of the new Constitution of the AFCAC, a specialized agency of the African Union, that came into force provisionally on 11 May 2010;

Mindful of the role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a framework for the development of Africa;

Mindful of the United Nations Security Council resolutions: 1373 (2001) *on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts*; 1624 (2005) *on threats to international peace and security*; and 2178 (2014) *on threats to international peace and security caused by foreign terrorist fighters*;

Mindful of the various programmes, objectives and targets currently being pursued under ICAO's No Country Left Behind (NCLB), campaign launched in 2014;

Considering the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL) Plan was unanimously supported by States at the AFI Aviation Security Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on 28 May 2014, endorsed at the 24th Extraordinary Plenary Session of the AFCAC, held from 1 to 4 July 2014 in Dakar, Senegal; and approved by the ICAO Council as an ICAO programme at its 203rd Session on 29 October 2014;

Considering the importance of aviation security and facilitation in air transport industry development world-wide, and its impact on national economic development particularly in Africa;

Considering the compelling need to continuously improve aviation security and facilitation in Africa and the need to urgently find immediate and sustainable resolution to deficiencies in aviation security;

Commending ICAO for its continued technical assistance to Africa, including the establishment of AFI SECFAL Plan and the support given to AFCAC in the establishment of the African Regional

Aviation Security and Facilitation Group (RASFG-AFI);

Having considered the Report of the Experts who met in Windhoek, Namibia, from 4 to 6 April 2016.

Concerned by:

1. Challenges in safeguarding international civil aviation in a volatile environment;

2. The need for political commitment at the national level for aviation security and facilitation;

3. Inadequate enforcement powers allocated to the designated Appropriate Authority for aviation security oversight;

4. Inadequacy of financial resources to ensure effective development and implementation of Primary Legislation and Regulations on aviation security and facilitation;

5. Inadequate levels of effective implementation of the critical elements of an aviation security oversight system, compliance with the ICAO SARPs related to Annexes 17 and 9, and implementation of State's Corrective Action Plans;

6. Insufficient number of competent/skilled aviation security professionals;

7. Lack of a security and facilitation culture;

8. Lack of effective National Programmes: National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP), National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme (NCASTP) and National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme (NCASQCP) and National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP);

9. Lack of States' capacity and capability to address tenuous security environment, conflict zones, new and emerging threats, including insider threats, insurgents and transnational criminal group activities;

10. Low level of States' Commitment to ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD);

11. Challenges in harmonization and intensification of assistance and capacity-building efforts;

12. Absence of functioning National Aviation Security and Air Transport Facilitation Committees and the challenges in establishing a national coordination mechanism for facilitation;

13. Inadequate guidance and training for implementation of facilitation procedures;

14. Insufficient inspection system and tools for the efficient and secure reading and verification of Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs) at borders, including use of the ICAO Public Key Directory and the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database;

15. The implementation of Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014); and

16. Insufficient framework for achieving the maximum benefits of travel documents and border controls by bringing together the elements of identification management and building on the success of the ICAO MRTDs Programme.

Recalling:

1. The importance of air transport in the economic development of the Continent particularly the attendant increased interactions among peoples, and wealth creation resulting from the various forms of exchanges so facilitated;

2. The role of the ICAO and in particular the African Representatives on the Council of ICAO in fostering the development of international civil aviation;

Reaffirming:

1. The urgent need to implement national, regional and continent-wide strategies on aviation security and facilitation in the African continent with a view to promoting air transport as a mode of transport which enhances Africa's development and integration;

2. The need for the full implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the AUC, AFCAC and ICAO;

Welcoming the various initiatives undertaken by sector organizations in the continent and by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and partners;

Welcoming seminar organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with the support from ICAO, in Niamey, Niger, in August 2013 which emphasized on the threat posed to civil aviation by man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and agreed on 12 recommendations and a Roadmap for mitigating the MANPADS threat to civil aviation in the Region;

Welcoming Training opportunities on Facilitation in Africa provided by ICAO: ICAO Regional Seminars on MRTDs, Biometrics and Border Security held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2009; Maputo, Mozambique in 2010; Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in 2012; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in 2013; and ICAO Facilitation Regional Seminars, Nairobi, Kenya, and Cairo, Egypt in 2014.

Undertake to:

1. Meet our States' aviation security and facilitation obligations under the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention), including ensuring effective aviation security oversight;

2. Ensure the implementation of the policy objectives, commitments, regulations and strategies on aviation security and facilitation as adopted in the AFCAP;

3. Ensure that aviation security is given its due consideration in States' National Development Plans;

4. Accelerate the establishment and strengthening, as appropriate, of autonomous authorities with independent regulatory oversight for aviation security;

5. Ensure the provision of sustainable sources of funding and resources to carry out effective aviation security oversight and implementation of aviation security and security-related facilitation measures;

6. Ensure the development of sustainable aviation security training capacities within the States including the use of Computer-based training (CBT) and blended learning;

7. Support the effective implementation of the ICAO Aviation Security Assistance and Capacity Building Strategy, the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan);

8. Ensure the timely resolution of all Significant Security Concerns (SSeCs) and deficiencies identified through the Universal Aviation Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA);

9. Ensure progressive increase in the Effective Implementation (EI) rate of ICAO's eight Aviation Security Oversight Critical Elements to no less than the world average;

10. Ensure the establishment of National Civil Aviation Security Committees (NCASC) and National Civil Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFC);

11. Ensure that all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRP)are removed from circulation;

12. Ensure the reduction of the rate of Acts of Unlawful Interferences and fatalities in Africa;

13. Ensure the enhancement of the National Point of Contact (PoC) network for real time information sharing;

14. Ensure the availability and retention of sufficient and competent/skilled aviation security and facilitation professionals; and

15. Support the AFCAC to enable it to effectively play its roles in aviation security and facilitation.

Decide to:

1. Adopt the Aviation Security and Facilitation Targets and Plan of Action annexed to this Declaration to ensure the implementation of the ICAO AFI SECFAL Plan which aims to enhance aviation security and facilitation in a sustainable manner;

2. Work jointly under the auspices of the AU to realize and implement the measures contained in the Plan of Action and the aviation security and facilitation targets adopted by this Declaration within the stipulated timeframes;

3. Direct AFCAC Secretariat to establish effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms for this Declaration;

4. Demonstrate commitment and willingness to effectively participate in regional cooperation initiatives as a means of enhancing aviation security and facilitation oversight capabilities;

5. Support and encourage the universal adoption of International conventions on Aviation Security, in particular the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (done at Beijing on 10 September 2010), the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (done at Beijing on 10 September 2010) and the Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (done at Montreal on 4 April 2014); and

6. Ensure active participation at all High Level meetings and other ICAO and AFCAC events that promote aviation security and facilitation;

Make a Solemn Appeal to the ICAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), and all Civil Aviation development partners and organizations to support the aviation security programme of the AU;

Urge African States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to foster cooperation in the air transport sub-sector;

Call for AFI States to provide resources and support the implementation of the ICAO AFI SECFAL Plan;

Request the AUC to submit for endorsement this Declaration to the next Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the AU.

Done and adopted in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia on this 8th day of April 2016.