

## Luanda Declaration on Tourism and Air Transport Connectivity

The UNWTO/Government of Angola Regional Seminar on Tourism and Air Connectivity in Africa, held in Luanda, Angola, 29 April 2014, in the framework of the 56<sup>th</sup> Regional Commission Meeting for Africa was aimed at addressing critical issues related to bridging air transport and tourism policies, including the current regulatory framework, taxation and the way forward in facilitating travel, in order to contribute to the development of tourism in the African continent and to ensure that its countries obtain their fair share out of the growing overall opportunities that tourism and aviation are generating globally.

In recognition of the importance of both tourism and air transportation sectors to the economic growth and development for many emerging and developing countries, and the specific opportunities and challenges for these countries in pursuing sustainable and resilient tourism, the ministers and delegates present at this Regional Seminar, in preparation for the first inter-ministerial conference of ministers of tourism and air transport organized by UNWTO and ICAO to take place in Seychelles in October 2014, call on sister UN and other international organizations, especially the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities, the governments and the national and local authorities of African countries, representatives and stakeholder of the sectors concerned, as appropriate, to:

- Approve the joint statement of the Secretary-Generals of ICAO and UNWTO made in the framework of the Assembly of ICAO in 2013, stressing the need for improved coordination between both sectors and committing the Secretariats to work towards this objective so as to unfold the full development potential of tourism and civil aviation.
- Recall the historic moment of 2014, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first commercial flight.
- Underline the need for giving full attention to the essential role of tourism and air transport as an engine of economic growth and sustainable development, and highlight the relevance of well-designed tourism and air transport policies in the development agenda of African countries.

- Stress the need for developing programmes of interregional cooperation between bodies responsible for tourism and air transport so as to improve and strengthen the basic conditions for the sustainable development of tourism in Africa.
- Reaffirm the need to address the obstacles and barriers that hamper the expansion of both tourism and air transport within, to and from African countries.
- Improve efficiency along the tourism value chain especially linked to air transport with the aim of improving the competitiveness and creating favorable conditions for more accessible air fares.
- Underscore the main factors that hamper the development of both tourism and air transport in Africa, namely, the lack of consideration of tourism benefits and co-ordination between the sectors, producing suboptimal air transport and tourism policies, especially infrastructure constraints, inapt taxation and restrictive visa policies.
- Underline the essential role of the Yamoussoukro Decision (1999) and recall the need to effectively implement it.
- Underscore the role of the public-private partnership and the essential role of air carriers, airports and tourism authorities challenged by changing business models and competitive environments. Stress the importance that safety and security play in both sectors and along all elements of the value chain. Encourage therefore, among others, the investment in human resource development, standard developments, structures and procedures.
- Highlight the need for intelligent taxation in order to avoid unnecessary and detrimental repercussions of taxes, levies and fees especially on the air transport and tourism sectors.
- Recommend the establishment of a dedicated working group to elaborate the concrete proposals for the Inter-ministerial conference in the Seychelles to tackle the obstacles and challenges faced by both sectors and identified by the delegates of this seminar.
- Recognize the need to take the outcomes and decisions of the inter-ministerial conference in the Seychelles to the highest political authorities in the respective countries and to regional and international organizations, especially the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Government of Angola, in particular to the Minister of Hospitality and Tourism, H.E. Mr. Pedro Mutindi, for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the Seminar, as well as the contribution to advance the agenda of tourism and air connectivity in Africa.

Luanda, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014