

CANSO Perspective

ATCONF/7

Enabling Investment, Interoperability and Sustainable Transformation for Future Skies

19 May 2026

BUILDING THE FUTURE AVIATION ECOSYSTEM

Strategic ATM and Airspace Management for Safe, Sustainable and Connected Growth



Air transport is a critical enabler of economic development, connectivity, resilience, and regional integration.



Aviation is entering a period of increasing complexity, driven by:



growing traffic demand



digitalisation and automation



integration of new entrants (UAS, AAM, higher airspace, space activities)



ATM and airspace management are strategic aviation infrastructure essential to enabling safe growth, sustainability, resilience, and economic competitiveness.



The future aviation ecosystem depends on creating and managing capacity safely and efficiently in a more integrated airspace. This requires a transition to **digitally enabled, interoperable, scalable, and performance-driven ATM systems**.



Together, through collaboration and alignment, we can build an ATM ecosystem that enables safe, efficient, resilient and sustainable aviation for future generations.

CANSO



ICAO ADVANCING KEY FRAMEWORKS

- Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP)
- Minimum Implementation Path (MIP)



THE MIP: A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY

Reduces fragmentation and supports greater global convergence and interoperability.



CANSO'S CONTRIBUTION

Grounded in the work of the **CATS Global Council** and the **CATS CONOPS for Future Skies**, developed with 80+ organisations worldwide.



OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRESENTATION

Support AFI preparatory discussions for ATConf/7 by highlighting:

- key challenges facing ATM transformation in Africa;
- strategic priorities for future ATM evolution;
- and the importance of global alignment and coordinated implementation.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FUTURE AVIATION



ATM and airspace management are not simply operational functions.

They are strategic infrastructure essential to enabling safe growth, connectivity, resilience, sustainability, and economic competitiveness.



OPERATIONAL BACKBONE

ATM systems form the operational backbone of the aviation ecosystem, supporting:



Capacity creation



Cross-border connectivity



Integration of new entrants



Network resilience



ENABLING TRANSFORMATION

ATM transformation is a prerequisite for enabling future aviation safely and sustainably.

KEY PRIORITIES



Digital ATM systems



Automation



SWIM and digital information exchange



Trajectory-based operations



Interoperable, service-oriented architectures



GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Global alignment is essential.



Fragmentation increases costs and limits interoperability.



Convergence enables scalability, affordability, and sustainable implementation.



This is particularly important for Africa.



Strategic investment, modernised systems, and global alignment will deliver a safer, more connected, resilient, sustainable, and competitive aviation future.



AFRICA: KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY

(CANSO PERSPECTIVE)



During the CANSO Africa Conference in Nairobi, **more than 150 stakeholders** from across the region discussed the future of ATM transformation in Africa.

The discussions confirmed that Africa has:

- ✓ Strong ambition and alignment with global aviation goals
- ✓ Growing demand and strategic importance
- ✓ Existing regional coordination structures (AFCAC, RECs, AFI Plan)

However, participants also identified a clear **disconnect between vision and implementation.**

The main barriers are not only technical, but also **political, institutional, organisational, and economic.**



KEY CHALLENGES



FRAGMENTED
IMPLEMENTATION



FUNDING & INVESTMENT
CONSTRAINTS



INFRASTRUCTURE &
DIGITALISATION GAPS



WORKFORCE & SKILLS
LIMITATIONS



LIMITED COORDINATION
ACROSS STAKEHOLDERS



AFRICA HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

Because implementation remains uneven in many areas, the region may be able to leapfrog legacy systems and move more directly towards digitally enabled and interoperable ATM environments.



A CLEAR AND PROGRESSIVE PATHWAY FOR ATM TRANSFORMATION

CANSO proposes a clear and progressive pathway towards a more integrated, interoperable, and performance-driven ATM ecosystem.

AT THE CENTRE OF THIS TRANSFORMATION



DIGITALISATION



INTEROPERABILITY



SERVICE-ORIENTED
ARCHITECTURE



ALIGNMENT WITH ICAO
FRAMEWORKS:
GANP & MIP



OUR OBJECTIVE

To move from fragmented implementation towards **coordinated, scalable,** and **globally aligned** ATM modernisation.



A MODULAR AND ADAPTABLE APPROACH

Transformation must remain modular and adaptable to regional realities, while supporting long-term interoperability and sustainability.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR AFRICA



Focused actions today to build a future-ready, resilient and sustainable ATM ecosystem.

THREE CORE PRIORITIES



1 BUILD A STRONG DIGITAL BACKBONE AND INTEROPERABLE ATM ENVIRONMENT

Digitalisation, standards and interoperability as the foundation.



2 DRIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND CONVERGENCE

Coordinated implementation and harmonisation across the continent.



3 INVEST IN PEOPLE, SKILLS AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Build a future-ready workforce and strong institutions.

ENABLING PRIORITIES



STRONGER CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION

Aligned and safe operations.



INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Leverage technology and collaboration.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Work together across sectors and borders.



SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT MODELS

Mobilise resources for long-term impact.



OUR OBJECTIVE

To build a more integrated, interoperable, and future-ready ATM ecosystem for Africa.



EXPECTATIONS FOR ATCONF/7



ALIGN POLICY. UNLOCK INVESTMENT. ENABLE SAFE CAPACITY.

Building a future-ready, resilient and sustainable aviation ecosystem.



OUR PURPOSE

To align policy, investment, regulation and operational transformation for a safer, more connected and sustainable global aviation ecosystem — including Africa.



STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT REQUIRES SUSTAINED INVESTMENT

ATM and airspace management are strategic infrastructure that require sustained and predictable investment.



FUTURE AVIATION GROWTH DEPENDS ON MODERN ATM SYSTEMS

Digitalisation, automation and the integration of new entrants require modern, resilient and interoperable ATM systems.



STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS, GOVERNMENTS AND FINANCE MINISTRIES

The Conference should foster stronger dialogue and shared ownership for effective implementation.



INCLUSIVE AND REGIONALLY FOCUSED

Support solutions that address regional realities and ensure no region is left behind.

SUPPORTING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION



SUSTAINABLE FINANCING APPROACHES

Mobilise innovative, predictable and blended financing models.



INTEROPERABLE & SCALABLE IMPLEMENTATION

Enable interoperable solutions that can scale across regions and adapt over time.



REGIONAL COOPERATION & HARMONISATION

Strengthen regional alignment and cooperation for efficient and integrated outcomes.



MID & LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN ATM MODERNISATION

Commit to long-term investment to build future-ready, resilient ATM systems.



OUR OBJECTIVE

To enable safe capacity creation and support a more **connected, resilient, and sustainable** global aviation ecosystem — including Africa.



CONCLUSIONS

ATConf/7 is a pivotal opportunity to align policy, investment and implementation for a safer, connected, resilient and sustainable global aviation ecosystem.



INVEST
FOR THE FUTURE



ALIGN GLOBALLY,
IMPLEMENT TOGETHER



BUILD RESILIENCE,
ENABLE SAFE CAPACITY



EMBRACE INNOVATION,
PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE



INCLUSIVE GROWTH,
NO REGION LEFT BEHIND



TOGETHER, SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AVIATION.

CANSO

THANK YOU

CANSO

SHAPING OUR FUTURE SKIES