



ICAO

## **FIRST UNWTO/ICAO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE Tourism and Air Transport in Africa**

**Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles**

**13-15 October 2014**

### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

#### **Day 1, Experts' Preparatory Meeting**

**Monday, 13 October 2014**

07:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:15 **Introductory Remarks: Master of Ceremonies [TBD]  
Nomination and Election of the Chairperson**

09:15 – 10:30 **SESSION 1—*Air Transport and Tourism: Fostering growth through regulatory convergence* (Panel discussion)**

Tourism and air transport are essential engines of trade and economic growth for both developed and developing countries. How do we optimize the symbiotic relationship between tourism and air transportation with a view to fostering harmonization of policies? How do we prevent divergent regulations from impacting air transport and tourism? What is the current status of Africa's regulatory framework and what is its impact on tourism and air transportation (e.g. Yamoussoukro Decision)?

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 2—*Connectivity and Seamless Travel: Best practices to serve the user* (Presentations)**

How do we facilitate the flow of passengers through the air transport system? How can various components of the air transport value chain better cooperate with the tourism sector to maximize the benefits of air transport as well as the passenger experience? How do we enhance seamless connectivity? What are the existing best practices and how could they be extended and adapted to other regions?

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:30 **SESSION 3—*Financing Challenges and Impact of Levies on Sustainable Development* (Panel)**

*Taxes, charges, surcharges and fees* are subject to many interpretations. Both sectors are dependent on public goods and need to contribute their fair share to public households. What are the specific challenges that allow for a well-designed charging system? Is there a need for better ways to communicate information on taxes and charges to users? Are security fees in excess to providing security services?

What are the challenges of financing development projects related to tourism and air transport sectors? How do we best structure to take advantage of public-private partnerships?

How do consumers perceive charges, taxes and others levies?

What are the success stories in financing tourism and air transportation projects?

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:15 **SESSION 4—*Tourism Development and Visa Facilitation Issues* (Presentations)**

How do we balance security and facilitation? What are the factors influencing airline choices for different market segments (the intercultural dimension)? How well do e-passports, e-visas and other documentation deal with emergent threats to security? How could African countries learn from other effective best practices?

17:15 – 18:00 Preparation of the draft action plan and summary remarks of Day 1: TBD

**Day 2, Ministerial Conference**

**Tuesday, 14 October 2014**

09:00 – 13:00 **Briefing of the Ministers by the experts**

14:00 – 14:30 **Opening Statements:**

14:30 – 15:30 **SESSION 1—*Setting the Scene* (Panel discussion)**

How should challenges to growth, such as restrictions on traffic rights and air carrier ownership and control, as well as inadequate funding of infrastructure, be addressed? How well do current Air Service Agreements (ASAs) contribute to connectivity and what are the prospects of air transport liberalization (Fifth freedom flights)? How do we best tackle other key issues common to the development of both the tourism and air transport sectors (in particular infrastructure, safety and security, passengers' rights, traffic congestion, taxation, visa facilitation)?

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **SESSION 2—*Presentation of the Draft Action Plan***

What are the common conceptual tools, policy guidance, and best practices that might help secure the development of both tourism and air transport, as well as to foster harmonization of laws and regulations across boundaries? What are the challenges that the economic and political blocks cannot solve on their own and where could

UNWTO/ICAO provide support? What do we require for a successful follow up and implementation to the action plan at a regional, national and international level?

17:30 – 18:00 Summary Remarks

19:00 – 22:00 **Gala Dinner**

### **Day 3, Ministerial Conference**

**Wednesday, 15 October 2014**

07:30 – 09:00 **Breakfast**

09:00 – 09:15 **Introductory Remarks: TBD**

09:15 – 10:30 **SESSION 3—*Review of the Draft Action Plan***

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION 4—*Finalization of the Action Plan***

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 16:00 **Official approval ceremony of the action plan and signature of the Ministerial Declaration**

16:00 – 16:15 **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks**

19:00 – 22:00 **Farewell cocktail**

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