



Air cargo growth requires renewed commitment to Lomé Declaration – ICAO Council President

For immediate release

Montréal and Addis Ababa, 27 June 2017 – Implementation of the Lomé Declaration is a crucial lever for realizing the technological innovation, regulatory reform and investment in infrastructure demanded by Africa's tremendously promising growth in air cargo, declared the President of the ICAO Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, in his address at the Second Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa today.

The key objective of the Lomé Declaration is the unobstructed flow and rapid release of goods through enhanced trade facilitation and custom clearance frameworks. Pointing to the pertinence of progress on its implementation, Dr Aliu highlighted the significance of air cargo's current and forecasted contributions to Africa's economy. "In Africa today, aviation supports millions of jobs and 72 billion dollars in Gross Domestic Product. The importance of air cargo as a key enabler of international trade, especially with respect to high-value and time-sensitive goods, is reflected in the fact that air transport carries around 35 per cent of world trade by value," he remarked, adding that growth in African freight traffic outpaced the global average last year and that freight capacity offered by African carriers in the region surged by over 20 per cent in 2016.

Dr. Aliu noted that progress in support of the Declaration should be achieved through the ratification of the 1999 Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, to which only 56 per cent of African States have adhered, the realisation of the ambitious 'E-Trade for All' initiative, which ICAO is undertaking in collaboration with other UN agencies, and the deployment of the Cargo Service Quality Index for measuring freight performance at the airport level, a project that ICAO is developing with the International Air Cargo Association.

Innovation is particularly crucial as e-commerce trends will continue to be a significant driver of this growth. "The air cargo share of items purchased online grew from 16% to 74% between 2010 and 2015, and is projected to reach 91% by 2025. The number of parcels flown by air has grown from around 130 million in 2011 to around 400 million in 2015, at a staggering 30 per cent average annual growth rate," Dr Aliu explained.

Progress on the implementation of the Lomé Declaration furthermore requires enhanced investment in ground infrastructure, aircraft, and human resources. "The development and modernization of reliable, quality aviation infrastructure is an important priority under the Lomé Action Plan," Dr. Aliu said. "The rapid growth of both freight and passenger air traffic is now placing increased pressure on Africa's airports and air navigation services, with latest projections telling us that no fewer than 24 airports in Africa will have reached their maximum operational capacities by just 2020," he remarked, noting that ICAO is facilitating States' commitments in this area through its own World Aviation Forums and its support of the MoveAfrica initiative being led by the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency. He urged States and financial institutions to contribute to the ICAO/AFCAC Human Resources Development Fund, and highlighted the aircraft financing benefits of adherence to the 2001 Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.

The President of the ICAO Council also underscored that continued growth would be predicated on a balanced approach to the liberalisation of services.

Dr. Aliu reiterated that ICAO would continue assisting States as they move forward with all of their

regional and national targets, in particular through the *No Country Left Behind* initiative and with the support of the ICAO Regional Offices in Africa. “ICAO will continue to play a leadership role in ensuring that air cargo’s growth benefits your continent, as well as Africa’s States, citizens, industries, trade and economies at large, and we will continue to promote aviation’s wider role in helping your countries achieve many of the AU Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals,” he said.

Organized by ICAO in cooperation with the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority, Ethiopian Airlines and the International Air Cargo Association, the Second Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa was opened by His Excellency Mr. Getachew Mengiste, State Minister, Ministry of Public Enterprises of Ethiopia, and was attended by 247 participants representing 21 States, 7 international organizations, and industry stakeholders from Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe and North America. Among the main outcomes of the meeting was the adoption of a new Statement on the Implementation of the Lomé Declaration, reaffirming commitment to the sustainable development of air cargo in Africa

“We all have a role to play in optimizing aviation’s benefits for sustainable prosperity here in Africa, and I will look forward to your partnership and commitments as we continue on that journey,” Dr. Aliu concluded.



In his address at the Second Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa on 27 June 2017, the President of the ICAO Council, Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, stressed the need for greater commitment to the implementation of the Lomé Declaration.

Resources for Editors

About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

[The Second Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa](#)
[ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative](#)

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