

Kenya Leads the Way: Celebrating 75 Years of Annex 9 - Facilitation

In the realm of aviation, where innovation and progress soar to new heights, it is essential to commemorate the milestones that shape our journey towards safer, more efficient skies. This year marks a significant moment in history as we celebrate 75 years of Annex 9 - Facilitation, a cornerstone of international civil aviation regulations.



Mr. Machio taking the participants through Annex 9-Facilitation

To honor this milestone, the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority recently organized a groundbreaking workshop aimed at sensitizing key stakeholders on the vital role of Annex 9 in air transport facilitation. Bringing together government agencies, airlines, and members of the National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, the workshop served as a platform to reflect on the past, embrace the present, and chart a course for the future of aviation facilitation.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity to delve into the rich history of Annex 9, with participants gaining insights into its ten chapters and the intricate amendment process that has shaped its trajectory over the years. From definitions to the last chapter on health-related provisions, each chapter was a testament to Annex 9's unwavering commitment to enhancing safety, security, and efficiency in air travel.

A highlight of the discussions was the recognition of the invaluable contributions of international organizations such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Airports Council International (ACI) in shaping the facilitation landscape. Their collaborative efforts have been instrumental in driving progress and innovation, ensuring that Annex 9 remains relevant and effective in an ever-evolving industry.

Participants also focused on the new Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), with particular emphasis on Standard 8.47 - the obligation of states to establish policies in support of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families. The journey of this critical standard was illuminated, with emphasis on the pivotal role played by the Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation International (ACVFFI) in its development.

Furthermore, discussions centered on Recommended Practice 8.49, highlighting the urgent need to develop a Comprehensive Strategy to combat human trafficking in aviation. This vital initiative reaffirmed our collective commitment to safeguarding the integrity and dignity of air travel for all.

In addition to addressing key SARPs, participants were briefed on new initiatives aimed at enhancing

accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRMs). By championing inclusivity and breaking down barriers, we are forging a future where air travel is accessible to all.

As we reflect on 75 years of Annex 9, we celebrate not only the progress we have made but also the milestones yet to come.

Here's to 75 years of Annex 9 - a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and the boundless possibilities of air travel!



By David Machio – Senior Air Transport Officer, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority