

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
STATE 1
(AIR TRANSPORTATION)
– MR. FELIX HASSAN HYAT
AT THE GLOBAL AVIATION
SAFETY ROADMAP WORKSHOP
ABUJA, NIGERIA
(14 – 16 APRIL, 2008)**

- **On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Alhaji Umar Musa Yaradua. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome you to this history making Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Workshop.**

- **This is the first workshop of its kind to be hosted in Africa. I must commend the laudable initiative of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the Banjul Accord Group and the Industry Safety Strategy Group (ISSG) for jointly organising this workshop and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority for the decision to host it. Permit me to also acknowledge the selfless commitment of the ISSG and ICAO for developing the concept that has today metamorphosed into the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) plan.**

- **Your vision for a safe, efficient and sustainable global aviation development is most welcomed in this era where air transport has become a veritable platform for power projection and economic development.**

- **Ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt in my mind that the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) is an exemplary model for partnership between the private and public sectors. Your resolve to effectively implement the plan, would result in optimum utilisation of the expert resources of the regulators, airline operators and aviation service providers including international organisations. We in Nigeria, have realised that aviation safety is predicated on global partnership and collaboration.**

- **We intend to preserve these as our potent tools to face aviation safety challenges ahead. We have realised the very thin line between what is domestic and international in aviation safety of the contemporary time. The entire global aviation is getting fused into one entity, pursuing aviation safety goal. In order words, the entire world aviation community should come together to help this new approach to safety.**

- **In the same vein, political will, financial commitments, technical resources, vibrant visions for continued cooperation and involvement of genuine partnerships must be put to work if the skies of our global aviation village are to remain safe and the high rate of preventable accidents in Africa is to be tackled.**

- **We are truly glad to play host to this historical event in Abuja Nigeria. We shall ensure that the dialogue and aviation safety implementation plan that will come out of this workshop are in consonance with your goal, and launch the first regional aviation safety plan of action as endorsed under the AFI aviation safety plan by the ICAO Assembly in September 2007.**

- **Once again, on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria and our entire aviation industry, I welcome you to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. I encourage you to articulately share your wealth of experience and professional knowledge with your colleagues during the succeeding dialogue and the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) implementation planning process. Feel good to be part of this history making event and the launching of the first aviation safety plan of action for the AFI Region.**

- **It is my honour and pleasure to declare this Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) opened.**

Thank you.