

GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY ROADMAP WORKSHOP

ABUJA, NIGERIA

14 – 16 APRIL, 2008

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR GENERAL
– DR. H. O. DEMUREN**

- **It is a great honour for me to welcome you to this first ICAO Regional Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Workshop in Africa. I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Transport and the Federal Government of Nigeria for giving the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority the privilege to host the workshop.**

- **Our gratitude also goes to the Industry Safety Strategy Group (ISSG) and ICAO for conceptualising the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap plan. Today, an articulate implementation of the plan is conceived as one of the most effective identified paths towards gradual elimination of aviation safety problems that have continued to threaten the foundation of the industry. The drive to achieve this has led to the NCAA initiative to host this workshop that is jointly being organised by the Banjul Accord Group with ICAO and ISSG.**

- **We remain poised to continue to support the Banjul Accord Group (BAG) and its commitment to serve as a vehicle in the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR) and other aviation safety initiatives. Ladies and gentlemen, I must confess that I am quite impressed by the presence of a good number of members of the BAG. This is no doubt a demonstration of our confidence of hope in the Global Roadmap plan.**

- **The participants in this auditorium cut across government, industry, service providers and stakeholders, from the local and international aviation community. We sincerely welcome you all, particularly, the facilitators, co-facilitators, speakers and key participants from ISSG, ICAO and the world apex aviation regulatory body and its regional Directors and senior officers. May I also welcome the members of Civil Aviation Authorities and institutions. We are particularly impressed with your selfless commitment towards enhanced global aviation safety and say thank you.**

- **The goal of this workshop is to engage participants in genuine dialogue that will lead to the development of a durable and effective aviation safety implementation plan for Africa, in line with the AFI plan as endorsed by 36th ICAO Assembly in September, 2007. It will also provide our esteemed participants the opportunity to interact with one another and exchange robust ideas on contemporary development and rapid innovation in the global aviation environment.**

- **The workshop will also concentrate on how we can develop a step by step implementation planning process for aviation Safety Management Systems (SMS), and the best way to realise the much needed collaborative efforts to achieve this. Such topical issue relating to collective and harmonised SMS implementation plans and effective regional coordination and safety regulatory plans will also be the major focus area of the workshop.**

- **Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the success of enhanced safety in the aviation sector is inexorably hinged on the principle of collectivity and government partnership with ICAO and regulatory authorities. As you may be aware, we recently hosted the Director General of IATA Mr. Giovanni Bisignani in Nigeria. This stands as our demonstration to sustain our efforts in international cooperation between Nigeria and key players in the international global aviation industry.**

- **On this note, permit me to state that your genuine and honest contributions during the work group brain storming sessions which have been built into this workshop programme, would reduce aviation accident and incident rates in Africa. It is also noteworthy that the majority of these accidents could be attributed to cumulative systemic errors and deficiencies in aviation operations. Such accidents are preventable if only we map out timely pro-active plans to mitigate or eliminate some of the identified deficiencies in the system.**

- **This probably, explains the gladden news of the well conceived initiative of ICAO for mandatory implementation of SMS and other aviation safety support programs.**

- **We wish to assure you that the Federal Government of Nigeria will continue to brace up to our international obligation as a responsible member state of ICAO and implement its international plans. Finally, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Transportation and the entire staff of NCAA, I welcome you to Abuja, the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are set to make history at the end of this three days workshop by launching the first Aviation AFI Regional Safety Plan of action under the framework of the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Plan.**

- **It is now my honour and pleasure to invite the Honourable Minister of State 1, Air Transportation to give his keynote address and declare the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Workshop open.**

Thank you.