

**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
HON. DR. SHUKURU KAWAMBWA (MP) AT THE OPENING OF
THE GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY ROADMAP WORKSHOP HELD
AT NAURA SPRINGS HOTEL, ARUSHA ON 12 AUGUST 2008**

**Mr. Chairman,
The East African Community Secretary General Ambassador
Juma Mwapachu,
The ICAO Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Director,
The President of AFCAC,
African Representatives on the ICAO Council,
President of the ICAO Air Navigation Commission,
Representatives of ISSG (IATA, ACI, CANSO, Boeing, Airbus,
Flight Safety Foundation and IFALPA),
Representatives of Development partner Agencies and
Cooperation Partners,
Executive Director of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security
Agency, Directors General of Civil Aviation and Airport
Authorities,
Representatives of the EAC Secretariat,
CEOs of Airlines and Air Operators,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on behalf of the East African Community (EAC) Ministers responsible for civil aviation, it is my great privilege and honour to welcome you all to this **Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Workshop** for the East African Community Partner States and the regional aviation safety oversight agency i.e. – the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Agency (CASSOA), which is being held in this beautiful City of Arusha. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania is grateful to the organizers of this workshop: the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Industry Safety Steering Group (ISSG) for having chosen Tanzania and Arusha in particular, as your venue for this important workshop. For those of you coming from outside the East African Community, the city of Arusha hosts the Headquarters of the East African Community which currently comprises of five Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. In

addition, Arusha lies at the centre of Tanzania's famous tourist attractions including Mount Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro and Serengeti while Zanzibar is only a short distance away. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you will find the environment in Arusha conducive for your work programme and conclude your business as scheduled.

Distinguished Delegates,

Tanzania recognizes the noble responsibilities of the many stakeholders involved with ensuring the safety, security and the efficiency of international air transportation. We particularly note with satisfaction the important and leading role which ICAO has continued to play over these years in ensuring that air transportation continues to remain safe despite its unprecedented growth. The formulation of the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) and recently the exercise of auditing States under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) make ICAO more indispensable than ever before to States and the civil aviation industry.

I would like to commend the "Civil aviation Industry" which in this particular case is represented by the Airports Council International, the Air Navigation Services Organisation, the International Air Transport Association, Flight Safety Foundation, the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association, Boeing and Airbus for their strategic initiative of joining efforts with ICAO, Contracting States, Regional Economic Communities and Cooperating Partners for ensuring sustainable and cost effective programmes especially in the developing countries. This venture is indeed a form of Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) which Tanzania has adopted in the development of some of its infrastructure development programmes and provision of services.

We believe that the ICAO-ISSG venture is important in ensuring that the implementation of the Global Safety Aviation Plan is harmonized cost efficient and well coordinated amongst the key players and stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

With regard to States being important stakeholders in aviation safety, the United Republic of Tanzania is mindful of its obligations as a Contracting State of ICAO in ensuring an orderly development of civil

aviation as stipulated in the Chicago Convention and as resolved by the Assembly and Council from time to time. One of the Government's roles is to ratify the conventions and protocols. I am glad to inform you that Tanzania has ratified most of the conventions and protocols dealing with safety and security.

Another obligation of States is the formulation of policies which ensure that aviation in the respective country remains safe and contributes to the economic growth of the country. Since tourism is significantly contributing to the national economy and that of the whole of the East African Region, the Government regards aviation, which is a big facilitator of tourism, as a strategic industry. Ensuring aviation safety and security is therefore one of the Government's priorities.

With regard to institutional framework, the Government has implemented ICAO's recommendation of creating autonomous civil aviation authorities. The Government established an autonomous regulator, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) in the year 2003. The Authority provides safety, security and economic oversight of the industry, air transport, air navigation and aeronautical airport services. The Government is also in the process of transforming the Tanzania Airports Authority from the semi-autonomous status of a government agency into a fully autonomous authority to enable it attract more investment in airport infrastructure.

With regard to airlines, the necessary transformation of the government-owned Air Tanzania Company Ltd (ATCL) has, unfortunately not fared very well. Recently, the Government was forced to purchase back 49% shares of the airline that it had sold to SAA. Tanzania now, aims to rebuild and to improve the performance of the airline. In the meantime, Precisionair and other local air operators provide fairly adequate services locally and regionally.

Mr. Chairman,

The East African Community is implementing a number of regional programmes in the civil aviation. While the establishment of the Unified Upper Flight Information Region, the GNSS implementation and installation of ADS-B are still under study, I am encouraged to

note that, a lot of ground work has been covered in air safety and security areas.

Aviation safety is a major concern to the Government of Tanzania and indeed in the whole of the East African Community and Africa in general. We thank God that Tanzania has not had a major accident involving scheduled air operators, nevertheless, the Government is very much concerned with, and apprehensive of fatalities and loss from aviation accidents. The country has suffered six fatal accidents involving general aviation in the last six years (three of these in the last eight months and the latest one in July 2008), which claimed a total of eighteen lives and completely destroying the aircrafts involved. Consequently, the Government has directed TCAA to enhance its oversight of the industry particularly in the **operations** area since most of these accidents are attributed to human error.

With regard to accident investigation, the Government recognizes its importance as a means of enhancing air safety in a State. Correct identification of the causes of accidents and taking prompt and appropriate corrective measures, will definitely reduce recurrences and improve the safety of air travel. I am happy to inform you that Tanzania has one of the most active accident investigation branches in the Region.

Although currently the branch has no permanent personnel and uses the TCAA's experts whenever an accident occurs, the Ministry has plans to establish a Safety and Environment Unit in the Ministry which is expected to facilitate the creation of a national transport safety bureau for all modes of transport. The possibility of establishing an EAC regional body for air accident investigation is something to be looked into seriously. This Workshop can provide an opportunity to brainstorm on this important issue and advise the EAC appropriately.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

Having had a chance to see and meet some of the high ranking and respectable paper presenters and delegations expected attending your Workshop, I am confident that the Workshop will be able to achieve its objectives. The EAC Regional Aviation Safety Plan which will be formulated by the Workshop will undoubtedly become an important tool for CASSOA; Partner States' civil aviation and airports

authorities and airlines in the enhancement of aviation safety in the Region.

I would like to assure this august gathering that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania together with all other EAC Member States; that we are fully committed to supporting the development and implementation of a regional safety plan based on the GASR methodology.

At this juncture, I would like to recognize and appreciate the support Tanzania and the EAC in general has been enjoying from the Governments of the Netherlands and the United States of America, the World Bank and EU in the enhancement of aviation safety and security. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage other Development Partners to similarly support the EAC Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Action Plan which will be formulated by this workshop.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Once again, allow me to take this opportunity to once again thank you for choosing Tanzania to be the venue of your Workshop. The EAC Ministers responsible for civil aviation are eagerly waiting for your Report and on behalf of my fellow Ministers; I promise you that it will be given the urgency and due attention it deserves.

Finally, allow me Mr. Chairman to encourage you all to take some time after the Workshop to sample and visit some of our attractions in the city and in the neighbouring areas, attractions which are increasingly making Tanzania a famous tourist destination.

With these remarks Mr. Chairman, it is now my pleasure honour to declare: the EAC **Global Aviation Safety Roadmap Workshop officially open.**

I thank you all for your kind attention NA KARIBUNI SANA!