



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICE

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Statement by Mr. Mam Sait Jallow,

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The Minister of Transport, Civil Aviation and Merchant Navy of the Rep of Congo,
The Director General and CEO of ECAIR, Congo
The President and the Secretary General of AFRAA,
Director General of IATA
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy of the AU Commission,
Secretary General of AFCAC,
Chief Executives of Airlines,
Industry Partners
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to be present amongst you, once again, and to be given the opportunity to address this 47th Annual General Assembly of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) in this hospitable city of Brazzaville.
2. I want to first of all express my sincere gratitude to the Secretary General of AFRAA, Dr. Elijah Chingosho, for inviting ICAO (here represented by a delegation comprising Mr. Zoa Etundi 1st Vice-president of the ICAO Council and Representative of Central Africa in ICAO, Mr. Barry Kashambo, ICAO Regional Director for Eastern & Southern Africa; Mr. Peter Alawani, Air Transport Officer and my humble self) to participate in this important event. In so doing, let me convey to you all warm greetings from the President of the Council and the Secretary General of ICAO.
3. In the same vein, I would also like to commend the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of *Ecair*, Mrs. Fatima Beyina-Moussa, for so ably fulfilling her undertaking made at your gathering in Algiers this time last year, to host here in Brazzaville, in collaboration with the Government and people of Congo, the 47th AFRAA AGA.
4. We have heard at length from eminent speakers from industry, and key players and stakeholders on the performance of the African air transport sector and its future prospects. There is global optimism in the industry's future growth prospects given that in 2014:
 - ✓ Aviation supported 8.5 million jobs and its direct economic impact reached approximately USD 700 billion;
 - ✓ Over 1.1 billion tourists crossed international borders, over half of whom travelled by air to their destinations; and
 - ✓ Airlines transported 51.3 million metric tons of goods, equivalent to \$6.8 trillion annually.

5. Accompanying such increase in activity and future prospects, as always, are particular challenges for the African region which continue to call for collaborative efforts and partnerships. Hence the significance and appropriateness of this year's themes for both the AGA and the Aero Political Forum that follows.

6. The sustainable development of air transport is an integral element that cuts across all of the 5 Strategic Objectives of ICAO. It is therefore no coincidence that the Declaration on development of air transport cargo in Africa (Lomé, Togo August 2014) and the Declaration on sustainable development of air transport in Africa (Antananarivo, Madagascar, March 2015) both support, among other things, the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air transport as a means to a single African air transport market.

7. Accordingly, ICAO has been engaged in various activities to facilitate the implementation of these important declarations. These activities include inter alia:

- Drafting of an International Agreement on Liberalization (including cargo),
- Promotion of ratification of 1999 Montreal Convention on consumer protection,
- encouraging application of ICAO guidance materials on user charges and taxation,
- development of the State Air Transport Action Plan System (SATAPs) Metrix, a tool for the measurement of implementation of the declarations by States; and
- establishment of the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) for Africa to address the capacity building requirements.

8. As you all know, the ICAO Secretariat has undergone a major change with the election and assumption of office of a new Secretary General last August, in the person of Dr. Fang Liu.

9. Right from the onset of her term as Secretary General, Dr. Liu clearly expressed her commitment to support the sustainable development of the aviation sector in Africa. It is indeed an instructive and strong signal that her first engagement outside Montreal, and in her first month in office, was her visit to Addis Ababa and a meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. As an outcome of this visit which will no doubt be of great interest to AFRAA Members, it was agreed:

- to collaborate in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the ICAO strategic objectives within the framework of the existing ICAO/AUC Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC);
- to promote air transport as an enabler and catalyst for Economic development and encourage Capacity Building and Training of Aviation Personnel;
- for ICAO to assist the eleven (11) African States that have already declared solemn commitment to full implementation of the YD towards the establishment of a single African air transport market;
- to cooperate on matters of common interest on the environment and climate change and support ICAO's position against introduction of an environment tax on aviation;
- that ICAO assists in the development of an African passport;
- To mobilize resources from international institutions, development partners and donors in support of civil aviation programmes in Africa; etc

10. Towards the end of 2014, the ICAO Council under the initiative of its President, Dr. Bernard Aliu, launched the "No Country Left Behind (NCLB)" campaign to highlight ICAO's

efforts to assist States in implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in accordance with their needs and priorities. The aim of this campaign is to ensure that SARP implementation is better harmonized globally so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe and reliable air transport.

11. Already, ICAO offices in all of the 7 world regions have put in place strategies and have started implementing NCLB. As part of this campaign, ICAO is organizing this month, the ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF) to bring States, the industry and the donor/development community together to help maximize opportunities for all in enhancing global air transport to ensure more successful and sustainable local and regional prosperity.

12. The IWAF will explore the wide-ranging socio-economic benefits of an effectively supported civil aviation sector, outline ICAO's NCLB goals of supporting improved services in states, preparation of business cases for aviation projects with an emphasis on the implementation of ICAO SARPs and policies, and foster improved collaboration among States, industry, development and business community partners, and ICAO. I therefore strongly encourage your participation in this event.

14. Ladies and gentlemen, during the 46 AGA convened last year in Algiers, I addressed you on a few issues on which I would now like to provide some updates.

15. Having dampened air transport activities in virtually the whole of our region and even beyond, the impact of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak has now significantly decreased, with two of the 3 most affected States already being declared Ebola free. Thanks to the efforts made by the States with the support of the international community, airlines have now progressively resumed flights in the hitherto affected States. Within the framework of the ICAO-WHO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) programme, valuable assistance and training have been provided, in an intense and consistent manner, to airports, airlines and personnel of other stakeholders in priority States.

16. Safety remains a shared priority of ICAO. In this regard, implementation of the Abuja safety targets is being vigorously pursued under the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan), the AFI Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI) projects, and AFCAC's AFI CIS project. Remarkable progress continues to be achieved in for instance the area of addressing Significant Safety Concerns, and we have seen the level of Effective Implementation of ICAO SARPs gradually improve. I believe however, that increased collaboration among organizations and stakeholders can only be fruitful in addressing other safety targets such as the requirement for IOSA certification of all African Airlines.

17. This year's theme of "*Open Skies: Growth through Competition and Collaboration*" is most apt, if not in fact overdue. Seemingly irreconcilable, these twin tenets serve as necessary pillars in a liberalized air transport environment. Whilst competing, our airlines need to be supported with enablers and not protected through unfair advantages and practices. They need to collaborate in utilizing their complementary strengths to deliver cost effective and affordable services so as to improve intra-African connectivity.

18. The rich agenda items and list of topics to be delivered by eminent industry personalities and deliberated on by seasoned panelists, will no doubt do just to this theme. I am therefore confident that at the end of this year's events, both the Resolutions of the Assembly and outcomes of the Aero Political Forum will provide the impetus for advancement and progress in African air transport.

19. In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to a couple of key ICAO events worth noting and to which you are all being invited. From 23 to 25 November this year, the ICAO World Aviation Forum which I already mentioned will be held in Montreal.

20. The 20th meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and the 3rd meeting AFI Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI) will be held in Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire from 30 November to 4 December 2015. A key outcome expected from APIRG/20 is the adoption of Air Navigation Service Performance Indicators and Targets for Africa.

21. From 30 to 31 March 2016, ICAO will be organizing the ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS) on "Addressing Competition issues: Towards a better Operating Environment". And lastly, the next AFRAA Annual Assembly (48 AGA) would come soon after the 39th ICAO Assembly in October 2016.

22. I wish you very fruitful deliberations and thank you for your attention.

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