

**AFCAC's POSITION PAPER ON AIR TRANSPORT RESILIENCE AND
EFFICIENCY THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION IN
COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION**

Presented by AFCAC

Introduction – African Aviation Industry

Aviation in Africa is a driver of socio-economic development of Africa. Aviation supports over **60 billion US dollars** in economic activity and **over 7 million** direct and indirect jobs in Africa according to ATAG report on Aviation benefits. In addition, aviation in Africa has the potential to open up markets, facilitate trade, link Africa to the rest of the world and contribute to the socio economic integration of the continent.

The COVID-19 impact on African Civil aviation industry can be summarized as **39 million in 2020 vs 74 million in 2019** of international passengers and **15 million in 2020 vs 41 million in 2019** of domestic passengers' reductions as depicted by the ICAO's report on the Economic Impact Analysis of COVID-19 as at 10 March 2021. This translates to massive losses in revenues to the entire African aviation value chain – airlines, airports, ANSPs, States etc

Ensuring collaboration and securing the necessary level of uniformity in regulations is recognized in Article 37 of the Chicago Convention. During this COVID-19 pandemic that has affected global aviation systems, it is important that actions taken by all aviation stakeholders to respond to the pandemic observe Article 37.

Discussions

Shared goals of the aviation industry stakeholders: Aviation Safety and Security anchored on an economically viable and environmentally sustainable framework and implemented in an orderly fashion is a key shared goal for global aviation systems. Achieving these shared goals in a coordinated way that meets agreed international standards and in a way that is not discriminatory to any State or stakeholder is a priority for AFCAC.

Leadership Role in decision-making: Aviation systems are inter related, however there exists various stakeholders and associations that play equally important roles to support aviation. In the African context for instance, AFCAC plays a leadership role in supporting African States in achieving international standards and also in ensuring the sustainable development of air transport in Africa. There are various associations that promote and lead interests of airlines, ANSPs, airports among others in Africa. The success of African aviation is achieved through close collaboration among these associations and stakeholders.

COVID Pandemic: The ICAO CART Phase III notes that the COVID-19 crisis has required States to confront difficult trade-offs associated with health, economic and social challenges. The resources available in response to emergency needs are often limited and characterized by high political pressure and urgency.

African aviation like in other regions is important and crucial in the fight against the pandemic. The global distribution of emergency and humanitarian supplies including the vaccines will no doubt depend on an economically viable aviation system. Aviation is also capable of stimulating recovery and growth of national economies by acting as an enabler and multiplier of economic activity.

It is therefore imperative that all the States of the world implement the ICAO CART Phase III recommendations and guidance which has taken note of the latest development of the COVID-19.

Resilience and Efficiency through Leadership and Cooperation

The global aviation industry operates as an interconnected ecosystem. The Preamble of the Chicago Convention captures the important need to develop international civil aviation to preserve friendship and understanding, reduce threat to general security and establish international air transport based on equal opportunity, operated soundly and economically.

Therefore;

In these COVID-19 pandemic era,

Proof of vaccination should not be a prerequisite for international travel. Implementation of the ICAO CART and Africa Union High Level Task Force recommendations should be the priority. Imposing unilateral conditions will bring disorder and pro long the already difficult recovery of civil aviation from the pandemic.

In the African context, AFCAC has developed a comprehensive work plan for the recovery and resilience of African aviation in coordination and cooperation with aviation stakeholders. Stakeholders and partners planning to support African aviation should do so under this Joint Action plan so as to optimize resources and avoid duplicative efforts.

The shared goals of the aviation industry in Africa being to foster sustainable development of Air transport, enhancing aviation safety, security and environmental protection supported with a sustainable human resources development for African aviation and a strong rule of law in the African Aviation Industry. AFCAC plays the leadership role in matters aviation on the African Continent by supporting African States in achieving international standards and in ensuring the sustainable development of air transport in Africa. AFCAC is making deliberate efforts to implement various Declarations, Decisions, Regulations, Guidelines, Roadmaps, Plans of Action, and Targets that have been developed and adopted to facilitate the sustainable development air transport in Africa.

In this regard, AFCAC in coordination with AUC and other stakeholder agencies like IATA-Africa, AFRAA, UN-ECA, AfDB and RECs, is engaged in advocacy programs that addresses factors that impact against national solutions to sustainable development and growth of air transport in Africa including political, institutional, planning, financial, technological, technical expertise, capacity building, and human resource development, infrastructure development, proliferation of taxes, regulatory constraints, amongst others.

And consequently come up with a framework that enable the AU Member States to adapt to the advantageous trend of multilateralism in the air transport sector which is now a consequence of globalization and reap from benefits inherent in the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) to let the vision of the AU Agenda 2063 pull all of us together.

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