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**MEETING OF THE SECOND MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
YAMOUSSOUKRO DECISION AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE
AIR TRANSPORT MARKET IN AFRICA**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

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We, Members of the African Union (AU) Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market held our second meeting on implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market within the context of the AU Agenda 2063 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 20th of October 2016.

The following Member States attended the meeting: Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe with the participation of African Union Commission (AUC), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Airlines Association (AFRAA), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), airlines from Member States, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, Egypt Air, COMAIR (Ltd.) and East African Community (EAC).

The Ministerial Working Group,

1. In accordance with its procedures, the Bureau of the Ministerial Working Group meeting was installed and composed as follows:
 - Chairperson: South Africa
 - First Vice-Chairperson: Congo
 - Second Vice-Chairperson: Egypt
2. Expressed its sincere gratitude to Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission for convening this second meeting of the Working Group composed of States party to the Solemn commitment to the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and for the follow-ups made since the 1st meeting;
3. Acknowledged and appreciated the significant socio-economic benefits which Africa stands to gain from liberalization of air transport markets and establishment of a single continental air transport market and the AU Agenda 2063;
4. Took note of the Decisions and Declarations adopted by the African Union Assembly in January 2015 on the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of a single African Air Transport Market;
5. Appreciated the work accomplished by the meeting of experts in preparing the key documents of the Working Group including the revised and updated Road Map of the flagship project;
6. Concerned on the delay to formalize the adoption of the Regulatory texts of the YD and legal framework of the Executing Agency of the YD emanated from changes made in the AUC process of adopting text via the sectorial STCs;
7. Reaffirm the need to enhance soliciting resource mobilization to the Executing Agency to enable the Executing Agency to effectively discharge its responsibilities for the effective and smooth management of the Intra-Africa air transport liberalization; and

8. Acknowledge with appreciation the undertaking of more States to commit to the Solemn Commitment.

We agreed that:

1. All Member States are urged to subscribe to the Solemn Commitment to the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market by 2017 as decided by the AU Assembly of January 2015;
2. All Parties to the Solemn Commitment made on the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market are required to report to the AUC and Executing Agency of YD (AFCAC) on measures taken as outlined by the AUC letter CE/L/20/188.16 of 18th May 2016 and adopted seven actions as agreed by the Experts;
3. A funding mechanism for implementation of activities of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the single market should be put in place;
4. Partner organisations such as AfDB, NEPAD, ICAO and IATA should be involved to provide the necessary technical and financial support to the project, and be effectively engaged in advocacy and awareness program;
5. Pan African Parliament (PAP) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should be involved in advocacy activities;
6. Framework of cooperation among the AUC, RECs and AFCAC (Executing Agency) should be formalized and put in place;
7. The Monitoring Body of the YD should be reinvigorated and its terms of reference revised taking into account the establishment of the Executing Agency of the YD and the new Constitution of AFCAC;
8. A multi-sectorial approach should be pursued to resolve the challenges affecting development of the air transport industry such as visa restrictions, taxes, charges, fuel levies and other non-tariff barriers;
9. Mitigating measures should be put in place for the possible demise of some airlines resulting from implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of the single market;
10. African Airlines should establish a cooperation strategy among themselves in order to establish common mitigation measures against challenges of the industry, including those arising from non-African mega carriers;
11. An evaluation mechanism for implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the single market project should be put in place with substantial involvement of the Member States, RECs and other stakeholders;
12. A communication strategy should be developed to support advocacy for the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of the continental air transport market;

13. As part of the communication strategy and to establish synergy among all stakeholders, a YD-day celebration should be implemented at national and continental levels;
14. The human resources capacity for the Executing Agency (AFCAC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AUC should be strengthened;
15. AFCAC proposed detailed work program and proposed budget as approved by the Monitoring Body should be considered and resource mobilization be solicited as requirements for implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market; and
16. Efforts should be made to stem the excessive brain-drain which negatively affect air transport.

We encourage the African Union Commission to continue its leadership and coordination role to speed-up the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market as decided by the AU Assembly.

The meeting took place in a spirit of openness and cordiality.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 20th of October 2016.

The Ministerial Working Group on Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market