

Agenda Item II.2 Implementation status of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the future of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)

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1. INTRODUCTION



- ▶ **The Ministerial Conferences of 2013 and 2014** being cognizant of the slow pace of implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD)
 - proposed the expeditious establishment of the Executing Agency of the YD and
 - adoption of the Regulatory Instruments required for the full realization of the YD.

- ▶ **The Assembly of Heads of State and government of the African Union of January, 2015**
 - ✓ took note of the serious challenges in the implementation of the YD and endorsed the establishment of a SAATM for African Airlines and
 - supported the Solemn Commitment made by 11 member States for the expeditious and unconditional actualization of the SAATM by 2017.
 - ✓ noted the endorsement made by the Executive Council of the AU on the Regulatory Instruments of the YD and Institutional framework of the Executing Agency (AFCAC).

Introduction...ctd.



- ▶ The second meeting of the Ministerial Working Group (MWG) underscored the challenges being faced in the operationalization of the YD and establishment of a SAATM and
 - therefore updated the Roadmap towards the establishment of a SAATM and drew up recommendations to expedite the launching of SAATM by July 2017.
- ▶ The Declaration of a Solemn Commitment made by the eleven Champion States (**Benin, Cape Verde; Republic of Congo; Cote d'Ivoire; Egypt; Ethiopia; Kenya; Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa and Zimbabwe**) towards advancing the concrete and unconditional implementation of the YD and
 - **Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gabon and recently Botswana; Mali, Swaziland and Togo** have joined, and more are in the process of joining.

2. DISCUSSIONS



- ▶ **The objective of the meeting with the RECs** was for the consideration of the Draft MoC aimed at establishing a framework of cooperation among the entities for the smooth implementation of the YD based on the Abuja Treaty.
- Review of the MoC was made by a REC that was present at the meeting and the AUC Legal Counsel and circulated again to serve as a basis for future consultation.

- ▶ **The Monitoring Body (MB)** established under Article 6.9 and ANNEX 2 of the YD has reviewed its responsibilities taking into account, the establishment of the Executing Agency (EA) of the YD.

- The Monitoring Body (MB) and subsequently the Ministerial Working Group (MWG) underscored the need to ensure that the Institutional and legal framework of the Executing Agency (EA) and the Regulatory Instruments (Consumer Protection, Competition Rules and Disputes settlement) Texts are finalized before the launching of the SAATM.

Discussion...ctd.



- ▶ **The Work Plan and Budget of the Executing Agency of the YD** were approved by the MB and AUC, and the latter submitted the request for funding of the EA to PIDA and AfDB.
- ▶ The MWG noted the Reports of the AUC and AFCAC on the **Implementation of the Activities of the Road Map** towards the establishment of a SAATM including challenges which indicated that only 40% of the activities have been implemented.
- It noted other major challenges among which are: the non-funding of the Executing Agency; **set-back in finalizing the process of adoption/ publication of the Institutional and Regulatory Texts of the YD**; and absence of responses from States on the concrete steps that they have taken since they made the Solemn commitment.
- Therefore, the Activity Road Map was updated and new time lines were set for execution prior to the launch of the SAATM.

Discussion...ctd.



- ▶ Review of the Concept Note for the **Celebration of YD Day on the 14th of November of each year**,, was consecutively done by the MB and MWG and later approved by the 26th Extraordinary Session of AFCAC.
- ✓ General consensus was reached as the objectives of such an annual celebration would assist in raising awareness on the opportunities and overall benefits associated with the liberalization of African air transportation;
- ✓ facilitate the involvement of more States in the implementation of the YD and in facilitating effective collaboration with RECs, Stakeholders, member States and Eligible African Airlines.

- ▶ The continuing slow progress of ratification of air law instruments particularly the Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99) which established a modern, fair and effective regime to govern airline liability to passengers and shippers on international flights .

CONCLUSION

- ▶ The SAATM is one of the Flagship projects of the Agenda 2063 and for the YD to play its significant role, **it must be fully implemented on a continental level.**
- ▶ Putting in place the Regulatory Instruments of the YD and resources essential for the proposed Work Program of the EA are critical in this respect.
- ▶ **Cooperation and collaboration** among key stakeholders including RECs would also remain of utmost importance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ The 1st Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism is requested to take Actions :-

Action Required: -

- ▶ Note the challenges faced due to the slow pace of the full implementation of the YD towards the realization of the SAATM;
- ▶ Urge member States to join the Champion States which have made a Solemn Commitment to the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) by 2017;
- ▶ Request the nineteen (19) Champion States to expedite notification to the AUC and AFCAC on their respective concrete measures taken towards the establishment of SAATM;
- ▶ Urge the AUC to speed up the finalization of the legal Instruments and Regulatory Texts, and reinforce the resources of AFCAC as the Executing Agency of the YD;
- ▶ Approve the Celebration of YD Day on the 14th of November of each year.



THANK YOU!