

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

ON

LAUNCHING OF THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET

AFRICAN UNION HEAD QUARTERS – ADDIS ABABA

25th 28th January –2018

*SAATM- flying the AU agenda 2063 - The Africa we want
(Integration, Peace and Prosperity)*

I. Background

1. During the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly which took place on 30th and 31st January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Heads of States and Government adopted a declaration to establish a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) **Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIV)**. The African Single Air Transport Market is a flagship project under the Agenda 2063. Eleven (11) Member States also declared their Solemn Commitment to establish the Single Market by 2017(**Assembly/AU/Commitment (XXIV)**). They further agreed to leave the Solemn Commitment open for other Member States to join later on.

2. Basing on the Solemn Commitment, the 11 Member States were constituted into a Ministerial Working Group by the Union Assembly in order to oversee and guide implementation of the agreed activities and road map for the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017. The Ministerial Working Group has expanded to include Ministers from Member States that have since joined and is supported by air transport Experts from their respective countries, the AUC, AFCAC, AFRAA, and RECs in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

3. Through the advocacy activities of the African Union Commission, the African Civil Aviation Commissions and current members of the Ministerial Working Group, the number of countries that have signed the Solemn Commitment has increased from eleven to twenty-two, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe. These Member States have been requested to implement a number of key steps towards ensuring the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, the initial condition for the establishment of the Single Market.

4. The twenty-two countries have a combined population of roughly 670 million, more than half the population (57%) of the Continent in 2015. Their combined GDP amounts to 1500 billion US\$ in 2015, which is over 65% of the Continent's GDP with average per capita income of 2,119.5 US\$/capita as compared to the Continent's average of 1888 US\$/capita. In 2015, 63.5 million International tourists were recorded in the Continent and the twenty-two countries accounted for over 54% of international visitors (Source: Africa statistical yearbook 2016). The number of countries that have signed the solemn commitment offer a significant single air transport market space, in terms of traffic volumes and airport infrastructure. In 2015, Africa handled 180 million passengers with over 56% handled by airports within the current single market area whilst airlines within the twenty-two countries account for more than 80% of the intra-African traffic.

5. The Single African Air Transport Market was planned to be launched in 2017 as per the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIV) but was postponed to the January Summit of 2018. This concept note describes activities to mark the launching of the Single African Air Transport Market, as a side event of the 30th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly, scheduled from 25th – 28 January 2018 at the Africa Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE LAUNCHING

6. This launching is to fulfil the mandate of the Heads of State and Government (HoSG) in accordance with Assembly Declaration (**Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIV)**). Therefore, objectives of the launching of the Single African Air Transport Market during the 2018 Summit are to, inter alia,

1. Accomplish the decision of the Union Assembly of the HoSG to launch the SAATM by 2017;
2. To commemorate the launching of the market, marking a notable milestone since the adoption of the Yamoussoukro Decision in 1999; and
3. To enhance publicity and global exposure on the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market, a key AU Agenda 2063 flagship project – the first of the twelve flagship projects to be launched.

III. ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE LAUNCHING

7. The following activities are planned for the launching of the SAATM:

- (a) **Special Publications:** The launching of the Single African Air Transport Market as a flagship project of the AU agenda 2063, demands effective publicity and a commemorative publication. The Commission plans to request specific media organisations to produce special editorials of their publications to mark the launching of the SAATM. It would also necessitate the AUC leadership to grant special interviews to the press on the significance of the single market. Other visibility materials are to be produced based on budget and available sponsorship from aviation industry partners. In this regard, it is recommended for the AUC to write to interested partners to sponsor visibility materials (IATA, AFRAA, NPCA, Boeing, Airbus, Transport Canada, African airlines). Article in the special publication to include resume of the YD institutional and Regulatory Texts, articles on the benefit of liberalising the air transport industry, show casing the aviation industry of those States in the SAATM, current issues on safety, security and the environment and brief interviews of Ministers responsible for aviation from Member States that have signed the solemn commitment on the expectations, etc. AFCAC will take the lead assisted by industry partners such as IATA in producing the special publication.
- (b) **Hosting the SAATM AU Aviation Fair:** In accordance with the vision of Agenda 2063 (*integration, stability & Peace and Prosperity-the Africa we Want*), each of the twenty-two countries that have signed the solemn commitment are invited to host an aviation Exhibition stand at the SAATM AU Aviation Fair Grounds, accompanied by their airlines and other aviation industry partners and aircraft manufacturers. The proposed theme of the fair is: "Flying Agenda 2063: for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa". AFRAA will take the lead in organising the SAATM AU aviation fair assisted by its members in the SAATM and other industry partners
- (c) The main side event to launch the market would include a High-Level roundtable (Davos style) panel discussion on the eve of the launch and the formal launching including opening addresses, signing of a commemorative certificate as an AU agenda 2063 flagship project and unveiling of a statue/symbol on the grounds of the AUC. The AUC will be responsible for the event assisted by NEPAD. The AUC will be responsible for the event assisted by NEPAD and ICAO.
- (d) Designation of Regional SAATM champions by the Chairperson of the AU: Based on the recommendation of the AUC Chairperson, the Chairperson of the AU will designate special Regional Champions of the Single African Air Transport Market to further advocacy and smooth operation of the market. Where appropriate a former Head of State and/or a multinational Business notable personality would be considered as Champion. Champions need to be persons with integrity, highly reputed, influential and universally acceptable within the region or across the continent. The five regions are: North, East, West, Central and Southern Africa.
- (e) Communication strategy: (i) Identify and actively seek out opportunities with social media platforms including Facebook and twitter and (ii) Updating the websites of AU, AFRAA, UNECA and AFCAC on SAATM: These sites should start promotion of this event by mid-November 2017. ICAO and IATA can also indicate news flashes of this event on their sites.

IV. EXPECTATIONS AND BENEFITS

8. The launching is to fulfil the mandate of the Head of States and Government in accordance with Assembly Declaration (**Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIV)**). The Single African Air Transport Market will be the first of the twelve Agenda 2063 flagship projects to be launched. The launching has a major political significance regarding the Solemn Commitment made by those Member States that have signed the declaration to implement the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the

establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market. The launching also provides an impetus for the airlines to plan their services under the Single Market paradigm.

9. As was noted in 2015, liberalisation and unification of the African air transport markets is one of the continental priority flagship projects that is expected to accelerate the achievement of the main goals of the AU Agenda 2063 for an **integrated, people-centred, prosperous, peaceful and stable Africa**. The launching is the beginning of this journey. A study by InterVISTAS in 2014 on the impact of liberalisation just between twelve countries found that an estimate of 155,100 jobs would be created in aviation, tourism, and the wider economy and to contribute US\$1.3 billion to annual GDP – about 0.07% of the GDP of the twelve countries. Passengers will benefit from a 75% increase in direct connections, fare savings of 25-35%, greater convenience and significant time savings.
10. The launching of the Single African Air Transport Market will also enhance the realisation of two other agenda 2063 flagship projects: (a) the African Passport & free movement of people and goods; and (b) the creation of the continental free trade Area (CFTA).

V. TARGET AUDIENCE

11. The targeted participants at the launching event will include high level invitees from the African Union Member States (Heads of States and Government, Ministers and Ambassadors from the Solemn Commitment States.), the international media, representation of global aircraft manufacturers, civil society and the wider public. The following organisations will therefore be invited at the launch: :

- a) Current and Outgoing President of the African Union;
- b) Leaders of Member States that have signed the Solemn Commitment and their focal persons;
- c) Invited SAATM Regional Champions;
- d) Individual who have been involved at the conception of the YD and SAATM
- e) African Union Commission;
- f) United Nation Economic Commission for Africa
- g) African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC);
- h) Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- i) Members of the Monitoring Body of the Yamoussoukro Decision;
- j) NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA);
- k) African Airlines Association(AFRAA);
- l) CEOs of Airlines in Solemn Commitment Member States and CEOs of airports, Aviation Training Centres and ANSPs;
- m) African Development Bank (AfDB);
- n) Pan Africa Parliament;
- o) European Union;
- p) Representatives of Foreign Missions in Addis Ababa
- q) International Civil Aviation Organisation;
- r) Invitation will also be made to all member States who are willing to sign up to the Solemn Commitment to the SAATM;
- s) Special Invitees of the aviation industry (IATA, Boeing, Airbus, Transport Canada, EASA, FAA) and other regional aviation organisations; and
- t) Other Partners as appropriate.

VI. Summary Programme of the Launching Event

12. **Special Events:**
 - 25 January 2018 – Opening of the aviation fair by the CIET
 - 27 January 2018 - Meeting of Ministerial Working Group of the SAATM and a Davos style round table forum
 - 28 January 2018 – Main Summit Side Event to launch the SAATM.

13. **Draft Programme of Main Launching Side Event**

The launch event will last not more than 90 minutes. The tentative programme is as follows:

- Opening statement by the AUC Chairperson;
- Opening statement by the President of the ICAO Council;
- Presentation of the status of implementation of SAATM by the Chairperson of the Ministerial Working Group;
- Formal designation of Regional Champions of the SAATM – by the AU Chairperson;
- Declaration of launching the SAATM by the AU Chairperson;
- Cutting of ribbon and unveiling of the Commemorative symbol of launching the market by the outgoing Chairperson of the AU; and
Cocktail

14. **Sponsorship:** Sponsorship of specific activity or specific events during this occasion will be considered by the African Union Commission.