



**AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION**  
**30<sup>th</sup> AFCAC PLENARY SESSION**  
(LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA, 4 – 5 DECEMBER 2018)

**Agenda Item 6: Inputs for 2019-2021 AFCAC Triennium Activities**

**Session1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT**

**Theme: Single African Air Transport Market – PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**STATUS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET (SAATM) AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE EXECUTING AGENCY OF THE YD.**

(Presented by Secretariat)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper presents the status of the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) since the 26th AFCAC Plenary Session (Extraordinary) held in Gaborone, Botswana, 10-11 November 2016).

The Paper provides, updates on the full operationalization of the Executing Agency of the YD where AFCAC is mandated with Institutional and Regulatory Legal Instruments to the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD).

**Action:** The Plenary is invited to:

- a) Note the contents of this paper.
- b) Approve the attached draft Resolution

**Financial implications:** The operationalization of Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) to be achieved subject to funds being availed through the AFCAC Triennium Budget, the funds mobilized by the AU, AfDB, other Financial Institutions and Funding Partners.

**References:**

- Resolutions of the African Union Commission (AUC) on the YD, establishment of SAATM and its Ministerial Working Group (MWG) and Champion State,
- Reports of the Ministerial Working Groups meetings.
- Activities and Work Program of the Executing Agency.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is the Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) on all continental matters in civil aviation. With the amendment of its Constitution in 2009, AFCAC was given additional responsibility as the Executing Agency (EA) of the YD, hence the responsibility to operationalize the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), to hasten the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD).
- 1.2. Eleven (11) Championing States, being concerned by the slow pace of implementation of the YD, took the initiative to open their respective air transport markets immediately and without conditions. The resourcefulness of the Champions received recognition by the Heads of State and Government of the AU during its 24th Ordinary Session, 30 - 31 January 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia through the adoption of a Declaration. The same Summit also established a Ministerial Working Group composed of the States party to such a Solemn Commitment.
- 1.3. The realization of a Single African Air Transport Market is vital to speed up the full implementation of the intra-Africa air transport liberalization through YD. It was against that backdrop that the Assembly adopted the Decision on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and considering it among the flagship Projects of AU Agenda 2063.

## **2. THE MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP**

- 2.1. The Ministerial Working Group is composed of African Member States that have signed the Solemn Commitment and is responsible for three main functions: (i) following up implementation progress on the establishment of the single market, (ii) providing guidance, and (iii) spearheading an advocacy campaign to urge the rest of the Member States to join the single market. The Working Group is open to those States that will join the single air transport market later.
- 2.2. The Ministerial Working Group (MWG) has held four meetings so far, the 4th one being in Lomé, Togo under the Patronage of the Champion of SAATM, the President of the Togolese Republic H.E. Mr. Faure Gnassingbé on 25th - 28th May 2018.
- 2.3. The fourth (4th) Ministerial Working Group (MWG) meeting provided a forum for BASA consultation resulting in signing of the Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) aimed at accelerating removal of any restrictive provisions of BASAs to ensure conformity with the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD). The MoI is automatically enforceable by any member State that is signatory to SAATM and will be open to those that will accede. The meeting also facilitated consultation among Member States which are without any Bilateral Air Service Agreement, to sign Bilateral Air Services Agreement that incorporate all the provisions of the YD required to operationalise the SAATM.

## **3. OPERATIONLIZATION OF THE EXECUTING AGENCY**

- 3.1. AFCAC has commissioned a detailed Work Program including resource required for the full operationalization of the Executing Agency of the YD to effectively discharge its functions and responsibilities and speed up the momentum realized by African States on unconditional implementation of the YD.

3.2. The major components on resource requirement include availing the critically needed Experts, capacity building programs on Regulatory Instruments at States and RECs levels, awareness programs on the benefits of YD and Regulatory Instruments, finalizing the remaining Operational Rules and Procedures and establishment of database for air transport in Africa. The Study was approved by the AUC, the Monitoring Body of the YD and NEPAD. It was subsequently submitted to the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) in August 2016 by NEPAD.

#### **4. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SAATM AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE EXECUTING AGENCY (EA)**

4.1. AFCAC in collaboration with the AUC, AFRAA, RECs, IATA-Africa have been conducting awareness campaigns at every available opportunity during their own conferences, workshops, meetings and those of their partners. Furthermore, sensitization of States through letters has been made on the benefits of YD and Joining SAATM and on the progress made.

4.2. While the AUC is soliciting for funds from Partners and the AfDB is reviewing the funding request, it has become apparent that financiers are not interested to fund a Permanent staff to the Executing Agency. It is worth to note that, the EA has only One (1) Air Transport Expert since it assumed this additional responsibility. AFCAC needs to be funded to facilitate operationalization of the Executing Agency and also strengthen staff capacity.

4.3. It is worth to note that, the process of adopting the Institutional and Regulatory Instruments of the YD took long and was only finalized in January 2018. The publication of the the Institutional and Regulatory Instruments of the YD has been completed recently.

4.4. Acknowledging the critical role the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are playing in the successful implementation of the SAATM, a Memorandum of Cooperation has been jointly developed between the RECs and AFCAC under the auspices of the AUC outlining areas of cooperation.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

There are empirical evidences of the benefits of liberalization of Air Transport to the travelling public, air carriers, airports and other allied service providers, the economy of member States and the continent as a whole.

The Decision made by the 30<sup>th</sup> AU Summit held on the 28-29 January 2018 on the launching of the SAATM within the framework of Agenda 2063 and the adoption of the Institutional and Regulatory Instruments will significantly contribute to the realization of full implementation of the YD on the Continent.

The Joint Action Plan spearheaded by the AUC in collaboration with RECs, NEPAD, ICAO, Industry and Financial Partners is encouraging since it encompasses all areas of civil aviation, including addressing the low level of EI of SARPs and Regional Targets on safety and security; infrastructural constraints, etc.

The African Civil Aviation Commission is keen to fully operationalize the Executing Agency and implement SAATM. This can only be achieved by employing qualified and required number of

experts, finalizing the Operational Rules and Procedures and establishing awareness program and capacity building activities at States and RECs levels.

## **6. ACTION REQUIRED**

- a) Note the contents of this paper and its Attachment;
- b) All States and RECs to support the activities of the Ministerial Working Group on the implementation of the Road Map on establishment of SAATM, including speeding up of the removal of any restrictive provisions from existing and future BASAs in the continent,
- c) States that have not joined SAATM to expedite the process of accession and notify implementation of the Concrete measures, including signing of the MoI
- d) The African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other Financial Institutions, to accelerate the mobilization of resources required for the full operationalization of the Executing Agency of the YD.
- e) Decide on mobilization of resources to the Executing Agency of YD and enhance the effectiveness of AFCAC to discharge its responsibilities, and
- f) Approve the attached draft Resolution and decide on resource allocation to the Executing Agency when considering the Work Program and Budget of (2019-2021).



## ATTACHMENTS WP/02/A

### **DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET (SAATM) OF THE YAMOSSOUKRO DECISION (YD) AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE EXECUTING AGENCY OF THE YD.**

#### ***The Plenary,***

***Considering,*** that the Yamoussoukro Decision entered into force on 12 August 2000 with the aim of removal of restriction of access to air transport market within Africa.

Mindful of the enormous benefits of liberalization of Air Transport to the travelling public, air carriers, airports, other allied service providers, the economy of member States and the continent as a whole;

***Recognizing,*** that air transport plays an important role in the geographical and economic integration of the continent as it fosters growth, trade and tourism and significantly contributes to the realization of AU-Agenda 2063;

***Noting,*** the Declaration made by the Heads of State and Government at its 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) through for the full implementation of the YD;

***Expressing,*** profound appreciation for the excellent work accomplished by the Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of SAATM and the Champion State of SAATM;

***Urging*** States that have joined the Solemn Commitment of SAATM and have also signed the Memorandum of Implementation (MoI) to speed up the removal of any restrictions in their existing Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASA) that have provisions contrary to the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD).

***Concerned,*** by the slow pace in implementing the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of air transport markets in Africa and the slow rate at which Member States are joining the SAATM by signing unto the Solemn Commitment;

***Calling,*** upon States, which are yet to join the SAATM to expedite action in this regard and those, which are already Parties, to accelerate implementation of the Concrete measures as well as sign the Memorandum of Implementation;

***Noting with Concern*** the challenges faced by AFCAC to fully operationalize the Executing Agency in order to effectively manage and exercise Oversight over the SAATM;

#### ***Resolves that:***

- a) AFCAC Secretariat to continue to sensitize African Union Ministers responsible for civil aviation and other stakeholders to support the full and effective implementation of the

- Yamoussoukro Decision by their respective authorities to join the SAATM by signing the Solemn Commitment as well as Memorandum of Implementation.;
- b) The AUC, the RECs and States Party to SAATM, in collaboration with other air transport stakeholders, take effective steps to engage the African States who are not yet members to sign on to the Solemn Commitment;
  - c) AFCAC Secretariat to accelerate awareness program and capacity building for Member States, Regional Economic Communities, African Airlines, etc. on the Institutional and Regulatory Instruments of the YD, in collaboration with the AUC and Partners;
  - d) Appeal to the African Union to accelerate the mobilization of resources required for the full operationalization of the Executing Agency of the YD to effectively discharge its functions and responsibilities;
  - e) Appeal to the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other funding partners to expedite the mobilization of resources for the operationalization of the Executing Agency to enable it adequately carry out its functions in the management and supervision of the established SAATM;
  - f) AFCAC Secretariat to recruit qualified experts to discharge its responsibilities as the Executing Agency of YD including oversight activities of the SAATM.