AFCAC NEWSLETTER
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2021
AFRICAN WOMEN IN AVIATION

Focus:
African Union Commission Appointments
New Secretary General of ICAO
130th Meeting of the AFCAC Bureau
25th Anniversary of Arab Civil Aviation Organization
4th Meeting of Stakeholders on Implementation of JAPP / SAATM

African Union Commission Appointments

The African Civil Aviation Commission congratulates H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat on his appointment for a second term as Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). AFCAC strongly believes that this second term will provide H.E with more opportunity to address challenges being faced by Member States to achieve the Global level of effective implementation of International Standards of civil aviation which are the critical elements to sustainable development of air transport in Africa, and contribute to the aspirational goals for AU Agenda 2063. AFCAC reiterates its commitment to work with his Excellency to achieve success for African aviation in general and in particular, the operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) at Continental level. AFCAC also extends its congratulations to H.E Dr. Amani Abou Zeid on her re-election as Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy of the African Union Commission. The Bureau and Secretariat of AFCAC remain confident that she will continue to provide policy guidance and support to the works of AFCAC as the Executing Agency of the YD. AFCAC reiterates its commitment to work with her and the Directorate of Infrastructure & Energy to achieve success for the African civil aviation, especially in this time when the aviation industry around the world and particularly the African Aviation Industry, are facing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar of Colombia appointed new Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization

Montréal, 25 February 2021 – The 36th State governing body of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the ICAO Council, has appointed Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar of Colombia as the new Secretary General of the Organization for a three-year term, beginning 1 August 2021. He will succeed Dr. Fang Liu of China, who has held the position for two consecutive terms since 2015. AFCAC would like to congratulate Mr. Salazar on this appointment and wish him well in his new venture. Read more @ https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/Juan-Carlos-Salazar-of-Colombia-appointed-new-Secretary-General-of-ICAO-.aspx

The Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner of Economic Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Industry. Both sides discussed the need to enhance synergy between SAATM, AfCFTA and Tourism. H.E. applauded AFCAC on the full operationalization of the Executing Agency of YD and achievements made on SAATM.

Meeting between AFCAC Secretary General and the Commissioner of Economic Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Industry of the African Union Commission

Mr. JUAN CARLOS SALAZAR OF COLOMBIA APPOINTED NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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AFCAC President addresses Arab Civil Aviation Organization’s 25th Anniversary celebration - 7 February 2021

Capt. Musa Nuhu, Vice-President Western Region, on behalf of the President of AFCAC, Mr. Gabriel Lesa, gave a goodwill message on the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization on 7 February 2021. The Vice-President highlighted that through the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and collaboration, ACAO and AFCAC have achieved remarkable success and as ACAO celebrates its 25th anniversary, AFCAC looks forward to deepen this collaboration for the benefit of civil aviation in their different regions. Some of the key achievements AFCAC has had over the years are inter alia: a) The support to the AFI Plan which aim was to support African States improve their Safety status on aircraft operations has resulted in a tremendous improvement of the safety standing of our member States; b) In the area of technical and capacity development, AFCAC has had success in the way experts from AFCAC States have acquired important civil aviation skills from ACAO Member States; c) At a political level, the MoU framework has seen both organizations support one another in securing leadership positions within the ICAO governance structure, a great benefit for both regions. AFCAC will be looking to enhance its collaboration with ACAO in the following three areas: (i) Joint response to the COVID-19; (ii) Joint programs and implementation of activities of common interest in the areas of air transport, safety, aviation security, environmental protection and; Human Resource Development and Capacity Enhancement.

130th Regular Meeting of the Bureau of AFCAC, 9 February 2021

During the Bureau meeting held on 9 February 2021, the Secretary General had the opportunity to present the report of the activities of AFCAC in 2020. The SG highlighted that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, AFCAC managed to achieve important milestones, which were well received and appreciated by the Bureau. The SG discussed the following key achievements regarding the Full operationalization of the Executing Agency: (a) the effective coordination of activities in response to the COVID-19 such as the HLTF, Webinars with World Bank, AfDB, CAAS; (b) the contribution to ICAO CART; coordination of the African Immediate Relief and Recovery Measures through the AU processes especially the draft Action Plan and Resolutions of the Ministerial Sub-Committee of the STC on Transport of the AU, which were well noted and appreciated by the Bureau. The Bureau also approved the planned activities for the year 2021 and acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat and the expectations to implement the planned activities.

Annual ICAO WACAF/AFCAC Coordination Meeting with Regional Aviation Organizations and Partners, Virtual 24 and 25 February

AFCAC in collaboration with ICAO WACAF/ESAF, RSOOs and Partners convened the annual coordination meeting from 24 to 25 February 2021. The meeting was held virtually and it is convened once every year to coordinate activities of all participating entities to eliminate duplication of efforts and to streamline annual programs to optimize benefits to African member States. In a speech read on behalf of the SG of AFCAC, the Air Transport Director Ms. Angeline Simana welcomed all participating stakeholders and reiterated AFCAC’s commitment to implement the Joint Activities Program which was expected to be the main outcome of the meeting. AFCAC announced that the Executing Agency (EA) for the SAATM is now fully operational after the EA staff joined AFCAC in January 2021. With support from the AfDB and other financial partners, the EA is mandated to coordinate all efforts and activities in the operationalization of the SAATM under the political leadership of the AU. The main activities discussed were seminars/workshops, meetings as well as the technical assistance missions to be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant travel restrictions.

4th Meeting of Stakeholders on Implementation of the Joint Prioritised Action Plan for the Operationalisation of the SAATM, Virtual 01-02 March, 2021

The African Civil Aviation Commission in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) held the fourth Meeting of Stakeholders on operationalization and implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) from 01 to 02 March, 2021. The meeting which was held virtually enabled all the Stakeholders to review the activities of the 2020 JPAP detailing the challenges, progress made and the way forward.
AFCAC and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) co-organized the 2nd virtual course for 2021 which was held from 15 to 19 February. The course provided a foundation on the principles and procedures for the conduct of safety audits on an aviation organization based on international best practices. A total of 26 participants from 16 member States attended the virtual course. This course is part of an annual training outreach programme provided by Singapore Aviation Academy in collaboration with AFCAC and meant to assist African States in their capacity-building efforts. It is based on the MOU signed between the CAAS and AFCAC, and has benefitted, over the years, African States through various aviation management related courses.

**Virtual Capacity Building Workshops on Economic Oversight and Regulation for Sustainable Development of Air Transport in Africa for AFCAC Member States**

AFCAC, in collaboration with ICAO and other partners, is planning to organize two back-to-back Virtual Capacity Building Workshops on Economic Oversight and Regulation for Sustainable Development of Air Transport in Africa. The main objective of the workshop is to build capacity of Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on economic oversight of airports and ANSPs and compliance with ICAO’s guidelines and policies on taxation, airport and ANSP charges. This is in line with the Joint Prioritized Action Plan (2021) for the establishment and operationalization of the SAATM as well as for the sustainable development of air transport in Africa. The workshops are scheduled as follows: **ECOWAS, ECCAS and AMU Regional Economic Communities**: 16 to 18 March 2021; and **EAC, IGAD, COMESA and SADC Regional Economic Communities**: 23 to 25 March 2021. For more details, please visit AFCAC website @ www.afcac.org

**08 March 2021 - International Women’s Day**

PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE AVIATION SECTOR
AFCAC continues to grow and is therefore pleased to welcome on-board two new staff of the Executing Agency of the YD: Mr. Amadou Lamine NDIAYE, Procurement Specialist, and Mr. El Hadji Amidine DEME, Accounts Specialist. Their bios are a follow:

**Procurement Specialist** - Mr. Amadou Lamine NDIAYE is from Senegal, West Africa. He studied law and economics in France that led to a Master's Degree in Private Law and Social and Economic Administration in 2005. Upon returning to Senegal, Mr. Ndiaye joined the National Agency of Statistic and Demography (ANSD) in 2008 as Head office of administration and procurement for six (06) years. He was then promoted Coordinator of all the procurement systems in 2014, and placed in charge of procurement processes from the planning to the awards of contracts, delivery of materials, and the selection of consultants. He also holds an MBA in Procurement delivered by the Management Superior Institute of Dakar, and a certification of Procurement Specialist Manager delivered in 2015 by the senegalese Regulation Authority of Public Contracts in collaboration with the University of Montreal. On 1 February 2021, he left ANSD to join AFCAC EA.

**Accounts Specialist** - Mr. El Hadji Amidine DEME is from Senegal, West Africa. He studied Finances and Economy in Senegal and obtained his Master's Degree in Accounting and Finance in 2009, with the following dissertation topic as follow: “The International Financial Crisis Genesis, Manifestation and Risks for the Economies of the WAEMU area”. He joined the DWORKS MEDITECH as the Head of Administration and Finance. He subsequently joined INGECO SA in 2015, the leading construction company as the Head Office of Administration, Human Resources and Finance Department. Since 2018 Mr. El Hadji Amidine DEME joined the Luxembourg Red Cross in Senegal, where he was in charge of the Office Administration, Human Resources and Finance Department. On 4 February 2021, he left Luxembourg Red Cross to join AFCAC EA.

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**FEATURED ARTICLES**

**DISCUSSION ON AVIATION INDUSTRY ROLE AND IMPACT ON AFCFTA - 2 FEBRUARY 2021**

On 2 February 2021, the African Union Department of Infrastructure and Energy organized a first meeting to discuss areas of cooperation and linkages between the SAATM and AFCFTA which are two key AU flagship projects under the AU Agenda 2063. The meeting was chaired by the AU Senior Policy Officer - Air Transport and was attended by a team from African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) support unit based at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, SAATM Executing Agency (AFCAC) and key air transport stakeholders including AFRAA, IATA-Africa and ICAO. The two teams from Trade and Air Transport agreed to share the annual work programmes to ensure improved coordination and timely sharing of information in the implementation of the two programmes which will all contribute to economic transformation of African. As way forward, it was agreed that the two teams work together to ensure that air transport is included in the annexes under the protocol on Trade in services to ensure required linkage of SAATM in the process of implementing AFCFTA. The two teams agreed to meet every month to update each other on progress being made.

**2020 WORST YEAR FOR AIR TRAVEL DEMAND - 3 FEBRUARY 2021**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced full-year global passenger traffic results for 2020 showing that demand (revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) fell by 65.9% compared to the full year of 2019, by far the sharpest traffic decline in aviation history. Furthermore, forward bookings have been falling sharply since late December. IATA’s baseline forecast for 2021 is for a 50.4% improvement on 2020 demand that would bring the industry to 50.6% of 2019 levels. While that view remains unchanged, there is a severe downside risk if more severe travel restrictions in response to new variants persist. Should such a scenario materialize, demand improvement could be limited to just 13% over 2020 levels, leaving the industry at 38% of 2019 levels. "Last year was a catastrophe. There is no other way to describe it. What recovery there was over the Northern hemisphere summer season stalled in autumn and the situation turned dramatically worse over the year-end holiday season, as more severe travel restrictions were imposed in the face of new outbreaks and new strains of COVID-19." said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA’s Director General and CEO. Read more @ https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2021-02-03-02/

**SENEGAL RECEIVED ITS FIRST DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE - 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

It is now official that President of the Republic of Senegal has received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at Blaise Diagne International Airport. The President of the Republic, who presided over the reception ceremony, addressed the nation from Dakar airport: "We are entering a new phase of our fight against our common enemy with the arrival of these 200 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines."
Kenya Airways (KQ) and Avianor, a Canadian cabin integrator specialist, have finalized the repurposing of the national carrier’s aircraft cabins (Boeing 787) for cargo transportation. The repurposed cabins have been certified to carry up to 16 tons of cargo. This potentially enables the aircraft to reach its maximum payload while in cargo operation of 46 tons.

Both Kenya’s Civil Aviation Authority and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) have announced the lifting of the ban on Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, following two deadly crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia. NCAA Director General Captain Musa Nuhu said the aircraft model had been granted approval to operate in Nigeria’s airspace following the recertification and Airworthiness Directive (AD) issued by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

RwandAir will become the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass to enable safe and seamless international travel. The airline will begin a three-week trial in April for customers travelling between Kigali and Nairobi in Kenya. IATA Travel Pass is a digital platform to help passengers easily and securely verify that they comply with COVID 19 test or vaccine travel requirements, in turn giving governments the confidence to reopen borders.

At least 52 of around 100 air carriers currently banned from operating in Europe are based in Africa. Their problem? Unacceptable safety standards, many rooted in maintenance. The EU Air Safety list pulls no punches. It lays the blame on “the authorities with responsibility for regulatory oversight” in the countries it names.