



CONCEPT NOTE

YAMOUSSOUKRO DECISION (YD) Day 2020

2 Hour Webinar on the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) Day Celebration

Friday, November 13, 2020

A. INTRODUCTION

The 29th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government endorsed the designation of **14th November of every year** as the Yamoussoukro Decision day (YD-DAY) to be celebrated at National, Regional and Continental levels.

The Yamoussoukro Decision which entered into force in 2000 following its endorsement by Heads of State and Government of the African Union provides for the liberalization of scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services within Africa and aims at removing restrictions on traffic rights, capacity and frequency between city pairs.

The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) established by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (30-31 January 2015), is one of the AU flagship projects of the Agenda 2063, which places the implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport Market in Africa within the context of the AU Agenda 2063. SAATM aims to ensure the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) on air transport liberalization in Africa.

The Heads of State and Government also adopted the “Solemn Commitment” made by Champion States on the Establishment of the SAATM. SAATM was officially launched on 29 January 2018 by the 30th Ordinary Summit of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. SAATM is a crucial logistic infrastructure for the successful operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, complemented by the protocol on the Free Movement of People and goods and the African Passport.

B. BENEFITS OF AIR TRANSPORT LIBERALIZATION THROUGH THE YD AND THE SAATM

The SAATM through the full implementation of the YD will contribute to the socio economic benefits of the African Continent and will also foster the actualization of the continent's integration as espoused by the African Union Agenda 2063. Air Transport liberalization will result in increased routes, reduced costs of travel to the African citizenry, increased trade, tourism, increase in direct employment and investments thereby resulting in economic growth (GDP) for the African States and the continent. So far, 34 member States have subscribed to the Solemn Commitment to implement the SAATM.

C. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR SESSION ARE TO:

- Implement the Decision of the 29th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government on the designation of **14th November of every year** as the Yamoussoukro Decision day (YD DAY) to be celebrated at National, Regional and Continental levels;
- foster awareness on the opportunities and overall benefits associated with the liberalization of the African air transport through the YD;
- Advocate and facilitate the involvement of more States in the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and joining the Single African Air Transport Market(SAATM);
- Provide implementation status on the Joint Prioritized Action Plan developed with Stakeholders and Partners on establishment of SAATM and sustainable development of air transport in Africa;
- Promote advocacy on the application, domestication and/or harmonisation of the Continental YD Regulatory Instruments at national and RECs levels;
- Sensitise the participating SAATM Member States to implement the reviewed Concrete Measures;
- Provide status on full operationalization of the Executive Agency of the YD; and
- Provide update on the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on full implementation of the provisions of the YD.

D. THE SESSION

The session shall witness a Panel discussion on the implementation of the YD, operationalization of the Executing Agency of the YD and the various elements of sustainable development of air transport - The journey so far

E. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In line with the objectives of the webinar, the following are the expected outcomes:

- Full implementation of the YD and SAATM by all AU member States in order to contribute to the AU-Agenda 2063;
- Enhanced understanding and appreciation by Member States on the opportunities and overall benefits associated with the liberalization of the African air transport through the YD;
- Enhanced understanding on the application, domestication and/or harmonisation of the Continental Regulatory Instruments with those of existing national and sub-regional regulations;
- Shared experiences among Member States and/or RECs on implementation of Concrete Measures;
- Enhanced understanding of the progress and challenges of the implementation of the YD and the eight (8) concrete measures of the SAATM among the member States;
- More States to join the Solemn Commitment made on establishment and operationalization of the SAATM;
- Improving AFCAC's visibility as the Specialized Agency of the AU on all civil aviation matters in Africa and Executing Agency of the YD and SAATM ;
- Fostering appreciation among Stakeholders on the need for enhancement of collaboration for sustainable development of air transport in Africa through full implementation of the YD and SAATM; and
- Promoting common understanding among stakeholders on the Work Plan of the Executing Agency and the establishment of the SAATM.

F. PARTICIPANTS

The following participants will be invited to participate in the meeting:

- a) Chairperson of the African Union;
- b) Regional Economic Communities (AU-RECs);

- c) Ministries of Transport/Aviation and DGs of Civil Aviation Authorities;
- d) Secretary General of ICAO
- e) Secretary General of AFRAA; AASA and Reps of Airlines of member States;
- f) Secretary General of ACI; Air Navigation (ANSPs) and Airport Services providers;
- g) Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs)
- h) IATA-Africa, CANSO-Africa
- i) Various partner States and Organizations;
- j) Aviation Professional Associations;
- k) Aviation Publishers;
- l) Press and Media, etc.

G. DATE: Friday, November 13, 2020
TIME: 11 am- GMT

H. LANGUAGES

The webinar will be conducted in English and French languages.

I. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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