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Vice-president, Southern Region

African Civil Aviation Commission

EU – Africa Aviation Conference

Windhoek, 2 and 3 April 2009

Honourable Helmut Angula... , Minister of Works and Transport of the Republic of Namibia

Honourable Dr Elham Mahmood Ahmed Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission

Honourable Martin Pohl, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to South Africa and Namibia, representing the Presidency of the European Union

Honourable Ministers of transport of African States, Burkina Faso, Guinea

Honourable Daniel Calleja Director of Air Transport of the European Commission

Distinguished Directors General of Civil Aviation of Africa and of the European Union,

Distinguished representatives of Regional Economic Communities

Distinguished Directors General and Chief Executive Officers of civil aviation organizations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the African Civil Aviation Commission, I would like to express our profound gratitude to the Government of Namibia, the African Union and the European Union for having organized this meeting today, allowing us to gather all the civil aviation stakeholders of Europe and Africa.

On behalf of the African Civil Aviation Authorities, I would like to reiterate our commitment, through a continental harmonized framework of rules and regulations, to implement a sustainable air transport system in Africa, which is a prerequisite for an effective African integration.

As indicated by His Excellency Prof Alfa Oumar Konare, President of the African Union Commission, in Tunis on 29 May 2006

«l'Afrique, pour se développer et donner un niveau de vie décent à ses enfants, a besoin de s'intégrer au plan politique, mais également au plan économique.

.....Ce développement et cette intégration passeront, entre autres, par la rapidité et la fiabilité des échanges entre les Etats africains, et entre ceux-ci et le reste du monde.

.....Le transport aérien, est probablement l'outil le plus adéquat pour le faire, à cause, d'une part, de l'étendue et de la géographie du continent et, d'autre part, de la mondialisation des économies..... »

Distinguished delegates,

This meeting will address the key topics of interest for the civil aviation stakeholders of both Africa and Europe, under the guidance of sound experts from various sectors of the industry and government authorities.

African States believe that several actions will allow the civil aviation sector to fully fit in the framework of the strategic partnership between AU and EU and in the action plan adopted in Algiers in April 2008 by the 1st Conference of the African Ministers in charge of Transport. I would like to mention two of them:

A/ African States, have to include the aviation sector in the priority sector when they are preparing assistance projects with the EU Commission, in order to be able to get financial assistance

B/ Transparency and sharing of information which are at the heart of the *Unified Strategy to Resolve Safety-Related Deficiencies* adopted by the 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2004 are essential for Africa. The strategy emphasizes that free flow of safety-related information must be embraced by everyone involved in air transport, at every level and across every discipline. This is an essential condition for creating or strengthening partnerships to resolve deficiencies, essentially by means of regional or sub-regional safety oversight organizations. Based on the strategic partnership between AU and EU, the operational ban process of an African air carrier by the European Union Commission, should go along with an effective communication and coordination process and a joint corrective action plan should immediately follow with the participation of all the stakeholders;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our intention, as the African continental organization in charge of civil aviation, is to focus in contributing in the following key areas:

- The full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, the continental policy for liberalisation of air transport markets in Africa.
- The economic regulation and passenger rights as the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision
- the global implementation of safety management systems designed to achieve measurable results;
- the development of global performance-based security measures amongst African States;
- the pursuit of unified and coordinated measures to reduce civil aviation's adverse impact on the environment;
- the implementation of harmonized air traffic management systems and performance-based efficiency improvements as required by the industry, and
- all those areas in which training plays a fundamental role.

The urgent implementation of the Algiers plan of action 2008-2012 on air transport is needed in order to allow the implementation of one single sky and one single market for Africa, as already achieved by our colleagues of Europe.

Thank you for your kind attention