

AFRICAN UNION

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**FOURTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP
ON THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE SAATM CHAMPION –
PRESIDENT OF TOGO,**

28th MAY 2018, LOME, TOGO

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

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We, Members of the African Union (AU) Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market held our fourth meeting on the immediate and full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the operationalisation of the Single African Air Transport Market within the context of the AU Agenda 2063, in Lomé, Togo, on the 28th day of May ,2018, under the patronage of the President of Togo, champion of the Single African Air Transport Market.

The following Member States attended the meeting: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo. Egypt was represented by a consulate of the Embassy and Angola participated as an observer, represented by the Embassy of Angola to Togo

The Ministerial Working Group,

1. Expressed its sincere gratitude to H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, the President of Togo, Champion of the Single African Market and H.E Mousa FAKHI, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, both for convening this fourth meeting of the Working Group composed of States party to the Solemn commitment to the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and their personal involvement in its deliberations;
2. Also expressed appreciation to the African Union Heads of State and Government for the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) during the 30th Ordinary Summit of the AU Assembly, 28-29 January 2018.
3. Acknowledged the good stewardship of the outgoing Bureau of the Ministerial Working Group and welcomed the incoming elected Bureau;
4. Pledged to fully implement the decision establishing the Single African Air Transport Market, (Assembly/AU/Dec.665 (XXX); in particular we are committed to the harmonisation of all Bilateral Air Services Agreement to ensure the removal of any restrictions to full compliance with the Yamoussoukro Decision;
5. Welcomed the new Member States that have recently joined the Single African Air Transport Market, namely: Chad, Central African Republic and The Gambia;
6. Acknowledged and appreciated the significant efforts made by the Member States to harmonise their Bilateral Air Services Agreement during the fourth Ministerial Working Group meeting;
7. Appreciated the importance of concluding a memorandum on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision between the Member States of the Solemn Commitment and also appreciated the work accomplished by the meeting of Experts of the Ministerial Working in preparing the draft memorandum of implementation

8. Commended the Government of the Republic of Togo for the excellent organisation of the fourth Ministerial Working Group meeting and kind hospitality received from the people of the Republic of Togo; and
9. Reaffirmed the need to enhance resource mobilization by the AUC and Partners to the Executing Agency of the YD for effective operationalisation of the SAATM.

We agreed that:

1. Member States to the Yamoussoukro Decision are urged to sign the Solemn Commitment to the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market ;
2. All State Parties to the solemn commitment shall sign the Memorandum of Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision by States Parties to the Solemn Declaration on the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).;
3. Member States, eligible airlines and all partner institutions should join hands in the operationalisation of the SAATM
4. African Union Member States should encourage their eligible airlines to take advantage of the Single African Air Transport Market and expand their operations across Africa and, where refused by any Member State of the Single Market they should lodge a complaint with the Regional Economic Communities and the Executing Agency to intervene.

We encourage the African Union Commission to continue its leadership and coordination role to speed-up the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision throughout the continent, expedite mobilisation of funds to the Executing Agency of the YD, publication of the YD Regulatory and Institutional Texts, the sustainable operationalisation of the SAATM and the monitoring of the Single African Air Transport Market as decided by the AU Assembly.

We are committed to fully support the designated Champion of the Single African Air Transport Market in the fulfilment of his role;

The meeting took place in a spirit of openness and cordiality.

Done in Lomé, Togo, on the 28th May 2018.

**THE MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
ON THE SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET.
LOME. TOGO, 28th MAY 2018**