



African Civil Aviation Commission
Specialized Institution of the African Union

Commission Africaine De L' Aviation Civile
Institution Spécialisée de l'Union Africaine

CONCEPT NOTE

YD Day 2019



13 - 14 November 2019

Dakar, SENEGAL

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and 20th Anniversary of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD)
13 – 14 November, 2019

1 BACKGROUND

The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is the Specialized Agency of the African Union responsible for all civil aviation matters on the continent. It was created by the Constitutive Conference organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1969.

The Mission of AFCAC is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among African States towards the development of integrated and sustainable air transport system, and to foster the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) by Member States.

The Revised Constitution provides AFCAC with autonomy in the coordination of civil aviation matters and entrusts it with the attribution of the Executing Agency of the YD, to manage, supervise and enforce appropriate rules in the liberalization of African air transport.

The Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalization of access to air transport markets in Africa was adopted in 1999 by African Ministers of Transport and entered into force in 2000 following its endorsement by Heads of States and Governments of the African Union. It 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), was established during the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (30-31 January 2015) by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, as one of the AU flagship projects of the Agenda 2063, thus placing implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport Market in Africa in the context of Agenda 2063. The Heads of State and Government also adopted the "Solemn Commitment" made by champion States on the Establishment of the SAATM.

The SAATM was officially launched on 29 January 2018 by the 30th Ordinary Summit of the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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.

This year, the celebration of the YD Day coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of AFCAC and the 20th Anniversary of the Yamoussoukro Decision. For this reason, special emphasis will be put on the achievements of AFCAC and of its mandate as Executing Agency of the YD and on the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

AFCAC will solicit funding from Partners for Event planning and management, publications, refreshments, gala dinner, etc.

The proposed theme of the YD Day 2019 is **“AFCAC: 50 Years Dedicated to the Development of an Integrated and Sustainable Air Transport System in Africa”**

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 2 days Event are to:

1. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the creation of AFCAC, its challenges, achievements and its future strategic objectives;
2. Promote the visibility of AFCAC as the Specialized Agency of the AU in all civil aviation matters in Africa and the Executing Agency of the YD;
3. Foster the implementation of ICAO SARPs by Member States and give due recognition to Regional Plans and acknowledge contributions of Partners in this respect;
4. Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Yamoussoukro Decision and foster awareness on the opportunities and overall benefits associated with the liberalization of the African air transport through the YD;
5. Its benefits to the development of Air Transport in Africa;
6. Advocate and facilitate the involvement of more States in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and joining the Single African Air Transport Market;
7. Provide implementation status on the Joint Priority Action Plan developed with Stakeholders and Partners on establishment of SAATM and sustainable development of air transport in Africa; and
8. Promote advocacy of regulatory texts of the YD.

3 EXPECTED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

It is expected that the Events will result inter-alia in:

- a) Improving AFCAC’s visibility as the Specialized Agency of the AU on all civil aviation matters in Africa;
- b) Fostering appreciation among Stakeholders on the need for enhancement of collaboration for sustainable development of air transport in Africa through the increase of the Effective Implementation of ICAO SARPs and Policies;
- c) Promoting common understanding among stakeholders of the Work Plan of the Executing Agency and the establishment of the SAATM;
- d) Promoting AFCAC as the Executing Agency of the YD and the coordinating body for the establishment of the SAATM;
- e) Engendering New impetus for the implementation by all AU member States of the YD and establishment of the SAATM in order to contribute to the AU-Agenda 2063”; and
- f) Advocating for more States to join the SAATM by signing the Solemn commitment, as a first step.

4 ACTIVITIES

- a) Panel discussion on the various elements of sustainable development of air transport
- b) Recognition given to personalities and Organizations involved in the establishment and management of AFCAC;
- c) Acknowledgement given to personalities and Organizations involved in the development and promotion of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the SAATM;
- d) Forums for exchange of views and networking;
- e) Awareness campaigns on AFCAC priority activities and on Regulatory Instruments of the YD, benefits of air transport liberalization, SAATM, etc.; through Publications;
- f) Exhibitions made by States, Aviation related Organizations, Service Providers, Manufacturers, Training Organizations, Publishers, Industry, etc.

5 PARTICIPATION

Participants will include inter-alia:

- a) Chairperson of the African Union;
- b) African Member States and Regional Economic Communities (AU-RECs);
- c) Members of the Ministerial Working Group (WG) of SAATM;
- d) President and Secretary General of ICAO
- e) AFRAA and other Airlines of member States;
- f) Air Navigation and Airport Services providers;
- g) Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs)
- h) IATA, ACI, CANSO,
- i) Various partner States and Organizations;
- j) Aviation Professional Associations;
- k) Aviation Publishers;
- l) Press and Media, etc.

Special Guest: TBD

6 VENUE

The celebration will be organized in Dakar, Senegal.