



**Joint IATA/ICAO/AFRAA/AFCAC/ACI/CANSO Aviation User
Charges Workshop**

Opening Remarks by Mr Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Regional Director

International Civil Aviation Organization

Western & Central African Office

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the President of the ICAO Council, Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano and the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr Juan Carlos Salazar, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all participants for responding to the invitation for attendance to the joint ICAO, IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, CANSO, and ACI workshop on aviation user charges.

I extend my gratitude to IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, CANSO, and ACI for joining efforts with ICAO and considering ICAO ESAF Regional office to host this important annual event which, in the past, has yielded positive result in promoting ICAO policies and industry best practices concerning aeronautical charges. The subject is of common interest, indeed. In this regard, working together makes the collaboration among the relevant organizations stronger today than yesterday and raises the confidence of the global travelling public by prioritizing the competitiveness of air transport on the continent and the global market.

The dramatic decrease of air passenger traffic, frequencies and routes in the air connectivity within Africa and beyond during the pandemic provides an indication that there is an urgent need for consideration of aviation charges which could potentially favour multiplier effect that may benefit recovery of air transport and the entire African economy.

With regard to carriage of cargo by air, the role became more critical during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic where the sector was on the frontline to ensure the delivery of essential medical and vital air cargo services, including humanitarian operations and the repatriation of people. Nonetheless, the reality is that aviation is among the many sectors severely affected by the global economy crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic. Preference of transportation of high value good by air continues to progressively gaining prominence.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The importance that ICAO accords towards taxes and charges applied to aviation as stated respectively in the Doc 8632 on ICAO's policies on taxation in the field of international air transport and the Doc 9082 on ICAO's policies on charges for airports and air navigation services is easily visible in implementing its result-oriented actions through tailored specific activities. I am making reference to steps so far taken by the Secretary General of ICAO for the implementation of the ICAO Resolution A41-27 on provisions specific to aviation charges. One of the two presentations by ICAO will shade light on these steps.

Developing good operating and regulatory environment specific to charges which allows airlines to perform affectively and effectively their commercial activities will significantly contribute to economic recovery of each African country, and to the continent in general. In that regard, ICAO policy and regulatory framework in Doc 9082 provides guidelines to maximize the benefits of aviation while making it safe, secure, affordable, accessible, efficient, resilient, and environmentally responsible within the ICAO NCLB Initiative.

Consequently, there is a need for States to observe ICAO guidance material on levies imposed to aviation which should be supplemented by human resource development in the field. I believe that coordinated efforts among stakeholders are relevant to achieving the expected result as it is currently the case with the ongoing AFRAA LAB on the sustainability of air transport and AFCAC PIP for the readies in the implementation of SAATM.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to recognize the contribution of IATA in logistics for making this event possible as well as by providing coordination among stakeholders throughout the preparation period. This event focusing on aeronautical charges, offers a ground whereby participants will express, learn about current trends, discuss, and exchange experiences, as well as provides excellent networking opportunities with outcomes for a better and competitive air transport in Africa and beyond.

I wish you all the best in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.