



ICAO

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFICE**

**AASA/ACI AFRICA/AFCAC/AFRAA/IATA/ICAO AIRPORTS AND AIR NAVIGATION USER
CHARGES WORKSHOP (NAIROBI - 29 – 30 OCTOBER 2024)**

**OPENING REMARKS BY MS. LUCY MBUGUA,
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

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- *Mr. Stephen MUSA Representative of the Secretary-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC),*
 - *Mr. Berthe Abderahmane, Secretary-General, African Airline Association (AFRAA),*
 - *Mr. Kashif Khalid, Regional Director, International Air Transport Association (IATA),*
 - *Mr Aaron MUNETSI The Chief Executive Officer AASA*
 - *Colleagues and Friends,*
 - *Ladies and Gentlemen.*

1. 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 the joint ICAO, IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, CANSO, and ACI workshop on aviation user charges.
2. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, CANSO, and ACI for partnering with ICAO and selecting the ICAO ESAF Regional Office to host this significant workshop, which is coordinated annually. The workshop has been instrumental in advancing ICAO policies and promoting industry best practices related to aeronautical charges, a subject of shared importance. This collaboration strengthens the ties between our organizations, fostering greater cooperation, while reinforcing the confidence of the traveling

public by enhancing the competitiveness of air transport in Africa and the global market.

3. Despite ongoing challenges, particularly the lingering effects of the post-pandemic era, coupled with geopolitical tensions and conflicts in various regions, global air transport maintained a steady recovery trajectory in 2024. These geopolitical disruptions have affected the cost of air transport, especially in terms of route planning and fuel expenses. However, passenger demand has rebounded, signalling renewed confidence in the sector.
4. According to industry sources, the air transport industry in Africa also experienced notable growth in 2024. There was a promising rise in air travel demand across the continent, driven by increasing connectivity and enhanced trade opportunities both within African nations and with global partners. This growth is a testament of the resilience of the region's aviation sector, which continues to expand its role in facilitating economic integration, tourism, and business travel, despite external pressures. The recovery of air transport in Africa is a critical factor that has a positive impact on regional development, enhancing trade corridors, and fostering stronger ties across the continent and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Like in other regions, the growth and development of aviation in our region is influenced by various factors, including the cost of services, which is significantly impacted by taxes and charges. High levels of taxes and fees lead to increased airfares, which negatively affect the movement of people and goods. This, in turn, hinders the long-term aspiration of our continent's connectivity and regional integration.

6. On the other hand, States and organizations are responsible for providing safe, secure, and efficient air transport services, which require continuous modernization and investment. Striking a balance between these seemingly competing interests—controlling costs to make air travel affordable, while ensuring the necessary investment for infrastructure and service improvement is crucial. This balance is essential for supporting the sustainable development of air transport in the region, fostering connectivity, and promoting economic growth.
7. ICAO offers clear and balanced principles on the application of taxes and charges in aviation, as outlined in two key documents: Doc 8632, which addresses ICAO's policies on taxation in international air transport, and Doc 9082, which covers ICAO's policies on charges for airports and air navigation services. These documents, along with other relevant references on airport and air navigation economics (to be detailed further during the presentation), provide essential guidance for States. Application of the set of principles outlined in these documents helps aviation deliver its full range of benefits while maintaining safety, security, and environmental responsibility.
8. I am confident that this collaborative workshop will facilitate discussion, share knowledge and resources that allows you to support your respective States in reviewing and setting optimal aviation fees, charges, and taxes. I hope the insights gained here will help foster policies that balance regulatory requirements with the need to stimulate aviation sector expansion within your respective countries and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen

9. Finally, I would like to recognize the contribution of IATA on the continuous coordination made with ICAO ESAF and other key stakeholders throughout the preparation period.
10. I wish you all the best in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.