

**ICAO Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa
5 August 2014
Lomé, Togo**

**Opening Ceremony
Angela Gittens**

GOOD MORNING. IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN MR. NINSAO GNOFAM, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT; DR. BENARD ALIU, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ICAO; AND OTHER HONOURED GUESTS ON THE PLATFORM THIS MORNING FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

THERE IS A FULL AGENDA, THERE ARE SOME EXCELLENT SPEAKERS AND THERE IS A CLEAR OBJECTIVE—TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES PREVENTING AIR CARGO FROM REACHING ITS FULL POTENTIAL IN AFRICA. THERE IS ALSO A CLEAR WAY FORWARD, AND THAT IS TO ADOPT A DECLARATION ON AIR CARGO DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA THAT CAN BE USED AS A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE.

IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE HERE THAT THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE STANDARDS, BUT RUNWAY CAPACITY IS NOT THE PROBLEM. FOR AIR CARGO TO THRIVE WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE RIGHT REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT IS IN PLACE; THAT THE AIRLINES HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY AND CAPABILITY TO OPERATE; AND, THAT THE AIRPORTS HAVE THE REGULATORY AND BUSINESS SUPPORT THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FACILITIES TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE. PASCAL KOMLA, PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ACI AFRICA, WILL

DISCUSS THE BENEFITS THAT LIBERALIZATION CAN BRING ABOUT IN SESSION 2: THE CONTRIBUTION OF AIR CARGO TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ANOTHER TOPIC THAT PASCAL—AND I'M SURE OTHER SPEAKERS—WILL TOUCH ON IS THE INHERENT DIFFICULTIES FROM AN AIRPORT PERSPECTIVE OF INVESTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY IN CARGO FACILITIES GIVEN THE SEASONALITY OF THE BUSINESS AND ITS SMALLER RETURNS WHEN COMPARED TO PASSENGER ACTIVITIES.

FINALLY, THERE'S SAFETY AND SECURITY, WITHOUT WHICH EVERYTHING ELSE WOULD BE FOR NAUGHT. IT'S NO SECRET THAT AFRICA HAS WORK TO DO WHEN COMPARED TO SOME OTHER REGIONS ON THIS VITAL ASPECT OF AIRPORT OPERATIONS. MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT WE CAN AND SHOULD DO MORE.

DESPITE THE NEED FOR A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS CARGO GROWTH TO FLOURISH, THE INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES PRESENT AND THE NEED FOR ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY, MAKE NO MISTAKE: AFRICA IS BURSTING WITH POTENTIAL. THE CONTINENT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOOM THAT EMERGING MARKETS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, EVEN THOUGH THAT GROWTH IS LATELY MORE SUBDUED ACROSS THE BOARD. WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 1 BILLION PEOPLE AND A

RISING MIDDLE CLASS, IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT AFRICA IS A SLEEPING GIANT.

ONE GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHERE FUTURE CARGO GROWTH IN AFRICA MAY COME FROM IS CHINA. CHINA REQUIRES MINERALS AND OIL IN ABUNDANCE AND AFRICA IS RICH IN THESE RESOURCES. SINCE THE MID-1990S THE ECONOMY OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA HAS GROWN BY AN AVERAGE OF 5% A YEAR. AT THE START OF THIS PERIOD AFRICA'S TRADE WITH CHINA WAS NEGLIGIBLE. IT IS NOW WORTH AROUND US\$200 BILLION A YEAR. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO EXPLORING WITH YOU DURING THE CONFERENCE WHERE THE NEXT BIG STORY IN AFRICA'S GROWTH WILL ORIGINATE FROM.

SUCCESSSES LIKE THIS ARE HEARTENING, AND ACI'S GOAL IS TO HELP NURTURE THIS DEVELOPMENT WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IN FACT, WE'RE ALREADY VERY ACTIVE ON THE CONTINENT. WE HAVE COMPLETED SIX APEX IN SAFETY REVIEWS IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE; LUSAKA, ZAMBIA; NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA; MAHEBOURG, MAURITIUS; AND ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST. FITTINGLY, OUR VERY FIRST APEX IN SAFETY REVIEW WAS HERE IN TOGO IN 2011. WE WILL DO ANOTHER FIVE IN AFRICA LATER THIS YEAR. ON A RELATED NOTE, THE SUCCESS OF APEX IN SAFETY, EVEN WHILE WE CONTINUE TO SCALE IT UP, HAS LED TO A CALL TO EXTEND THE CONCEPT TO SECURITY, AND YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT AFRICA WILL BE A

CONCENTRATION FOR US WHEN THIS NEW PROGRAMME GETS UP AND RUNNING.

IN ADDITION WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH ICAO AS RECENTLY AS APRIL ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL AVIATION SECURITY CONFERENCE IN DAKAR, SENEGAL WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 300 DELEGATES. FINALLY, IN OCTOBER WE WILL HOLD OUR ACI WORLD GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN DURBAN TO COINCIDE WITH ACI AFRICA'S OWN BOARD MEETINGS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO DAYS OF PRESENTATIONS I AM SURE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GATHER TOGETHER THE EVIDENCE THAT THE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION CAN USE IN THEIR CLOSED MEETING ON THURSDAY TO DRAW UP A COMPREHENSIVE AND COMPELLING CASE FOR AIR CARGO IN AFRICA. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT IF, WHERE AND WHEN ACI CAN PROVIDE THE SUPPORT YOU NEED WE WILL BE THERE. I WISH YOU A VERY PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE.