

# **IMPROVING FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN THE ECOWAS REGION - OVERVIEW**

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ECOWAS Member States,  
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# IMPROVING FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN THE ECOWAS REGION - OVERVIEW

- Honourable Cecilia Dapaah, Minister of Aviation, Ghana
- Dr. Antoinette Weeks, Commissioner of Infrastructure, ECOWAS
- Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliyu, The President of ICAO Council
- Mr. Simon Allotey, Director General, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
- Directors General of African CAAs
- Representatives of Regional and Global Institutions
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the Media
- Permit me to stand on other existing Protocols

# IMPROVING FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

## OPENING

- Let me first express my sincere appreciation to ICAO, ECOWAS and the Ghana CAA for organizing this very important Meeting. At this stage of Africa's Aviation and Economic development, States and their respective Regions must view Air Transport as a major economic catalyst and driver of Africa's economic transformation.
- States must share the same understanding of the core needs and challenges of the Air Transport Industry in West Africa in order to make the right efforts to enable the Region benefit immensely from Sustainable Air Transport in Africa.
- To set the stage for effective discussions that would fast-track the achievement of Air Transport Development and Effective Flight Interconnectivity within the ECOWAS Region, it is important to highlight some of the progress made, the potentials and challenges in the Air Transport Industry and Economy in the ECOWAS Region.

# ECOWAS DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

## ECOWAS ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- ECOWAS is a 15-Member Regional Group with a mandate to promote economic integration in the region, with population of over 369 million
- ECOWAS is a region of diversity in tribes, ethnicity, French, English, Portuguese speaking States, etc. which could affect integration
- The total land area of West Africa is 6,067,010 Km<sup>2</sup> (2,342,485 sq. miles).
- Many ECOWAS City-Pairs are poorly connected; other means of Transportation are poorly developed
- ECOWAS Economies are among Africa's economies facing slowdown, reduced growth rate of 2-3% annually, with weak currencies and low exchange rate
- ECOWAS Region mainly produces primary products such as agricultural products and natural minerals; there is poor Industrialization

# IMPROVING FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

## EFFORTS TO LIFT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ECOWAS REGION

- ECOWAS is engaged in activities to establish more efficient Air Transport Industry in the Region.
- The regional trade policy is developed along the lines of boosting exports to member states as well as to the rest of the world. Imports into the region are therefore seen as complementary to the exports of goods and services.
- ECOWAS is holding this Meeting to find ways forward for Air Transport Interconnectivity in the Region
- In February 2017 here in Accra, Second Tripartite Meeting ECOWAS, the *West African Economic and Monetary Union* (UEMOA) and the World Bank Group agreed on a set of priorities aimed at significantly diversifying and transforming the economies of the sub-region.
- Efforts by AU e.g. Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) being planned by AU FOR 2017, efforts by NEPAD, AfDB, etc.

# ECOWAS AIR TRANSPORT OVERVIEW

## AIRPORTS AND CARGO INFRASTRUCTURE

- There are huge Air Transport Potentials in the ECOWAS Region.
- Air Cargo Infrastructure are poorly developed in ECOWAS Region
- ECOWAS is the least developed and exploited Air Transport Region
- New Airport and Renovated Airport in West Africa
- Lack of MRO Facilities
- Lack of successful PPPs in Infrastructure development

# ECOWAS AIR TRANSPORT OVERVIEW

## AIRLINES OPERATION

- Small weak Airlines in ECOWAS Region
- Airlines challenged by harsh operating environment/conditions
- Yet Airlines make bold efforts to survive - Airlines like **Overland Airways, ASKY, Air Burkina, Africa World Airlines, etc.**
- Upcoming Airlines in ECOWAS Region need support
- Huge Resources needed to boost Air Transport in ECOWAS Region
- General Safety Improvement in Africa also seen in ECOWAS Region



# ACHIEVING IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS REGION

## ESSENTIAL NEEDS FOR IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS

- Presence of Strong Viable Airlines
- Conducive and Up-to-date Aviation Policy and Regulation
- Strong Economic Policy to drive Investments and Ease of Doing Business in the Region
- Diversification and Industrialization of ECOWAS Economies to generate Socio-Economic activities that attract and feed regular flights
- Development of Air Cargo Facilities, Sources of Cargo materials, and other potentials
- Ease of Movement for Trade and Tourism Integration across borders
- Economic Empowerment of the populace to afford flight tickets
- Improved Security, and Socio-Political Stability, etc.

# ACHIEVING IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS REGION

## GOING FORWARD TO 2017 AND BEYOND

- ECOWAS should have Measurable targets such as ensuring the establishment of Air Services Between more of ECOWAS City-Pairs to quicken integration within the Region
- Discussions at this Meeting should be geared to generate ideas and resolutions to achieve Improved Air Transport Infrastructure and Airlines Operators which addresses effectively the challenge of Interconnectivity in ECOWAS Region

# ACHIEVING IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS REGION

## MANDATE OF PANEL OF EXPERTS

- Against the foregoing background, Discussants are expected to proffer strategies and ways forward into 2017 and the future in order to fast-track improved flight connections in the Region.
- The Panel of Experts will identify ‘What will **Promote Integration** in the Region,’ and ‘What is Needed from ECOWAS States to achieve **Improved Flight Connections In The Region**,’ which can be achieved by answering these questions below.
- This brings us to the Key Questions for our Panel of Experts today.

# ACHIEVING IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS REGION

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR PANEL OF EXPERTS

1. ECOWAS has been intended to be a domestic market for West African Airlines. How can this and the Yamoussoukro Decision be fully implemented in the Region?
2. What can be done to completely remove blockades to Trade and Investment in ECOWAS Region since a robust economy promotes equally prosperous Air Transport Industry?
3. How Can ECOWAS key into the UN Vision 2030, AU Agenda 2063 and ICAO's 'No Country Left Behind' Programme?
4. How can the ECOWAS Region have sustainable Government Support to Local Airlines to drive interconnectivity in the Region?
5. How can the ECOWAS Region de-emphasize, or remove excessive taxes, charges and fees on Air Transport Operators in the Region?
6. How can the ECOWAS Region improve Air Cargo activities and fast-track the establishment of needed Air Transport Infrastructure in the Region?

# ACHIEVING IMPROVED FLIGHT CONNECTIONS IN ECOWAS REGION

- May I now call up our Distinguished Experts on this important Panel to come up and take their seats
1. **Col. Dokisime Gnama Latta**, Director General, ANAC Togo & Chair, First ICAO Meeting on Air Cargo Development in Africa (2014)
  2. **Mr. Silué Sinaly**, Director General, ANAC Côte d'Ivoire
  3. **Dr. Paul-Antoine Marie Ganemtoré**, Project Director Air Transport, ECOWAS Commission
  4. **Dr. Samson Fatokun**, Area Manager, South West Africa, International Air Transport Association (IATA)
  5. **Mr. Abderhamane Berthe**, Chairman, Airline Steering Committee, ECOWAS
  6. **Cat. Samuel Thompson**, Chief Operating Officer, Africa World Airlines

