

## **2<sup>nd</sup> UN Tourism and ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa**

Luanda, Republic of Angola  
22-24 July 2025

### **Concept note**

#### **Experts Workshop on Air Transport and Tourism in Africa (22 July 2025)**

### **I. Background**

The air transport and tourism sectors play a critical role in driving socio and economic development, regional integration, and job creation across Africa. However, both sectors face unique challenges that hinder their full potential, including regulatory barriers, infrastructural gaps, limited access to investment, and insufficient technological integration. While insufficient technological integration is not a critical economic factor for the air transport sector, it is a key challenge for the tourism industry. The lack of advanced digital platforms and smart solutions in tourism limits personalized services, efficient travel management, and the overall customer experience, hindering sector growth.

With an increasingly dynamic economy and expanding international connectivity, Africa has a significant opportunity to capitalize on the synergies between air transport and tourism to fuel sustainable growth.

In the lead-up to the **2nd UN Tourism/ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa** to take place in Luanda, Angola (22 to 24 July 2025), an Expert Workshop will be held on **22 July 2025** at the [Hotel InterContinental Luanda Miramar](#) to set the stage for high-level discussions. The workshop will bring together leaders, policymakers, industry professionals and experts to analyze current challenges, identify actionable solutions, and propose a collaborative roadmap for advancing both tourism and air transport sectors. The findings and recommendations from the workshop will be presented to ministers, during the Ministerial Conference on 23 and 24 July 2025.

### **II. Key Objectives**

The Expert Workshop aims to:

- Provide a platform for in-depth analysis and insightful discussions on the challenges and opportunities in African tourism and air transport.
- Foster dialogue around innovative solutions for digital transformation, smart mobility, and sustainable tourism development.
- Identify investment opportunities and financing mechanisms to support infrastructure development.

- Engage experts in developing robust policy and regulatory frameworks that promote regional integration, air connectivity, accessibility, and inclusivity within the sectors.
- Set the stage for the Ministerial Conference by delivering actionable recommendations and a set of findings to be presented to the ministers on 23 July 2025.

### **III. Key Themes**

The workshop will focus on the following core themes:

- Challenges and Opportunities in Tourism and Air Transport – Identifying the key enablers each sector can provide to jointly improve and accelerate air connectivity in Africa.
- Harnessing AI and Technology for Innovation – Exploring the role of digital transformation, AI, and smart mobility solutions through which cooperation of both sectors can be stimulated positively in Africa.
- Building the Case for Investment – Identifying key investment elements and areas of priority for public-private collaboration and funding in tourism and air transport.
- Overcoming challenges in policy and regulatory frameworks in Africa– Examining the role of policies and regulations in promoting free movement, regional cooperation, and accessible air transport services for all.

### **IV. Expected Outcomes**

The workshop is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Key Findings and Recommendations: comprehensive takeaways summarizing the challenges, opportunities, and proposed solutions in tourism and air transport sectors within the African region.
- Actionable Policy Recommendations: Clear policy frameworks for governments and regional organizations to implement in order to enhance connectivity, accessibility and regional integration in air transport and tourism.
- Investment Roadmap: A list of priority infrastructure and innovation projects that will allow for better access to capital markets and attract investment in tourism and air transport to the region.
- Presentation to Ministers: A formal presentation of the workshop's findings and recommendations to the ministers at the Ministerial Conference on 23 July 2025.

## V. Target audience

The Expert Workshop will involve experts and stakeholders in tourism and air transport including:

- Government Officials: Representatives from African ministries/authorities for air transport, tourism, and infrastructure.
- Industry Leaders: CEOs, executives, and senior officials from airlines, airports, international and regional organizations, hospitality groups, and travel companies.
- Investment and Financial Institutions: Representatives from development banks, private investors, and financial partners.
- Technology Experts: Specialists in AI, smart mobility, and digital transformation.
- Academia and Research Institutions: Experts in policy, economic development, and sustainability.

## Conclusion

This Expert Workshop will play a pivotal role in shaping the discussions at the Ministerial Conference and ensuring that the outcomes are based on thorough, expert-led insights. By focusing on actionable strategies, collaborative partnerships, and innovative solutions, the workshop will help to set Africa on a path toward sustainable growth in both tourism and air transport, driving socio-economic development, job creation, and regional integration for the continent. The findings of the workshop will be presented to the ministers at the Ministerial Conference on 23 and 24 July 2025, ensuring a direct link between expert recommendations and high-level policy discussions.

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