

**SPEECH OF THE LEADER OF UGANDA DELEGATION TO THE 40th
SESSION OF ICAO ASSEMBLY 24 SEPTEMBER-4 OCTOBER 2019.**

**BY HONOURABLE AGGREY HENRY BAGIIRE (MP), MINISTER OF
STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) UGANDA**

Saturday 28th September 2019

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

EXCELLENCIES HONOURABLE MINISTERS

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, DR. BERNARD ALIU OLUMUYIWA

SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO, DR. FANG LIU

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is a great honour for me to address the 40th ICAO Assembly, and I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of the Republic of Uganda.

I wish to profoundly thank the Federal Government of Canada and Government of Quebec for the hospitality extended to my Delegation since our arrival in this beautiful City of Montreal.

Mr. President,

My Country Uganda was once described by Sir Winston Churchill as **The Pearl of Africa** because of its unprecedented beauty and natural endowment. Uganda is home to inter alia, the famous “Big Five” and the endangered mountain gorillas especially the silverbacks. Distinguished delegates, if any of you is planning to spend the next family vacation in perfect harmony with nature, the Pearl of Africa is the best choice for you and your families.

Uganda is land-linked and therefore air transport is critical for our economy, especially for the tourism industry and international trade. Since 1967 when Uganda became a Contracting State of ICAO, Government continues to prioritise air transport.

Due to its geographical location, Uganda is a key provider of air navigation facilities and services for flights to and from Uganda and those transiting Africa, thus contributing to safety, security, efficiency and sustainability of global aviation.

Mr. President,

Uganda has and will continue to contribute to the implementation of ICAO Strategic Objectives and the “**No Country Left Behind**” Initiative by providing short-term expertise for training, especially in Africa and also to participate in ICAO Universal Security Audit Program (USAP)- Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) audit missions.

The Council President’s Certificate awarded to Uganda on 24th September 2019 was indeed an honour and encouragement for us to perform much better. Uganda pledges to return to this podium at the 41st ICAO Assembly, this time, for the President’s certificate awards in both Safety and Security.

Mr. President,

In order to meet the demands of increased air traffic, several strategic measures and operational improvements have been undertaken by Government of Uganda.

These include:

1. Liberalisation of air transport market access and airline ownership to facilitate trans-national investments in airlines and aviation businesses. I wish to invite prospective entrepreneurs to take advantage of this opportunity and invest in the aviation sub-sector in Uganda.

2. Expansion and modernisation of Entebbe International Airport to increase operational capacity and efficiency. This includes:
 - a. Construction of a state-of-the-art cargo centre to handle growing exports of fresh fish, cut flowers and high value imports.
 - b. Construction of a new passenger terminal building with appropriate facilities to handle growing passenger volumes
 - c. Construction of new taxiways, aircraft parking aprons and additional fuel storage facilities
 - d. Upgrade of the Security Search Park and airport parking facilities.

Mr. President,

3. The Government has taken a cautious but well-informed decision to revive the National Airline (Uganda Airlines) to improve and facilitate movement of passengers and cargo both on regional and international routes.
4. In order to continuously provide training to civil aviation professionals and enhance human resource capacity within the region, the East African Civil Aviation Academy, Soroti, located in Eastern Uganda is being revamped. Government has also embarked on the process of establishing other aviation training facilities at Entebbe International airport and other parts of country.
5. Significant investment has been undertaken to improve Air Navigation Services in line with the Global and Regional Air Navigation plans, thus enabling the following:

- a. Implementation of almost all elements of Block Zero of the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBUs).
 - b. Installation of a modern Air Traffic Services Message Handling System (AMHS).
 - c. Implementation of Air Traffic Control Radar (Mode-S) and Air Space Management System providing both Enroute and Approach services.
 - d. Adoption and Implementation of Performance Based Navigation (PBN) within the Flight Information Region.
 - e. Installation of a Terminal Operation Control Centre (TOCC) and Airport Operations Database System to support Airport Collaborative Decision Making (ACDM).
 - f. Automation of the Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) System, including implementation of electronic Aeronautical Information Publication (eAIP).
 - g. A national Search and Rescue plan was concluded by and Regional Search and Agreements have been signed the partner states of the East African Community (EAC).
6. A new International Airport is under construction in Western Uganda, purposely to serve the oil-rich Albertine Region. It will also serve as an alternate for Entebbe International Airport

Mr. President,

7. Regarding Safety and Security assurance, Government has amended the Civil Aviation Act to strengthen the oversight mechanism and ensure effective implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.
8. Uganda has also made financial contributions to the special ICAO Plans for improving aviation security in Africa and hosted important meetings such as AFI Week held in Kampala in May 2019
9. For the last 20 years, Uganda has and will continue to commit amenities to United Nations and international organisations to facilitate humanitarian and emergency air operations to countries in Africa.

Mr. President,

10. Uganda congratulates the aviation fraternity on ICAO's 75th Anniversary, during which Civil aviation has undoubtedly become the safest mode of transportation. We must pay tribute to those great thinkers who 75 years ago, concluded and signed the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
11. In a special way, Government of Uganda recognises and commends you, Dr. Alou for keeping the baton of success and for your excellent and selfless leadership. The achievements you made would have been difficult without a Team of hardworking women and men. In this respect, Government of Uganda wishes to applaud the Secretary

General, Dr. Fang Liu and the entire secretariat for the great work in facilitating contracting states.

12. Government of Uganda has planned a series of activities in commemoration of ICAO's 75th Anniversary, the highlight of which will be the hoisting of the ICAO flag at the source of the Nile, the world's longest river.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates

In conclusion, allow me once again to wholeheartedly thank the ICAO leadership for the continued cooperation and partnership with the Government of Uganda.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for your attention.