**OPENING REMARKS FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. FRED K. BAMWESIGYE, AT THE OPENING OF THE JOINT SAFETY CULTURE WORKSHOP ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, AT SPEKE RESORT MUNYONYO**

**The Head of Delegation of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),**

**The Representative of the Secretary General, AFCAC,**

**The Executive Director of CASSOA,**

**Management of UCAA,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to this safety culture training and workshop aimed at imparting knowledge, skills, and sharing of lessons learned on fostering a healthy and positive Safety Culture. This brings together aviation experts in the region to renew collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of safety in the industry.

I would like to first take this opportunity to extend our most sincere gratitude to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) for choosing Uganda to host this very important activity. We are delighted to host you all and we do not take it for granted but look at it as a vote of confidence in Uganda’s air transport system.

I warmly welcome the experienced facilitators and all the participants present from different states and the local participants from Uganda.

Uganda CAA has previously participated in several other similar engagements organised by ICAO aimed at promoting, implementing, and maintaining effective Safety Management Systems to foster a culture of safety. As you will be updated later, Uganda CAA has tried to align its strategic plan to the ICAO Safety framework. Through this, we shall be able to implement projects that are relevant but also address the long term vision of the aviation industry.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The objective of this workshop is to build a common language around safety culture, identify key determiners of safety culture, apply knowledge and skills to regional case studies and share and exchange lessons learned in overcoming challenges to implementing, maintaining, and fostering a healthy Safety Culture, among others. I am confident that all the participants will learn a lot from each other and from the presentations and discussions. It is pertinent that the lessons contribute towards enabling all of us foster a culture that emphasises safety. one of the best practices in safety culture is proactively reporting near misses and incidents so that areas of improvement can be identified and worked on to prevent recurrence.

This is because we are cognisant of the fact that while we put in in place all mechanisms to minimize danger, in the real world, incidents or even accidents (God forbid) are bound to occur due to various reasons, including equipment failure, human error, or any other unforeseen circumstances.

I, therefore, encourage delegates to actively participate and exchange information, ideas and experiences during this workshop and hope that when you go back home you will be in position to contribute to the continuous improvement of fostering a healthy Safety Culture in your respective states.

Uganda is committed towards the implementation of resolutions that will arise out of this workshop. I also wish to underscore our continued cooperation with the FAA, AFCAC and CASSOA in activities aimed at building safe skies for Africa and the entire global Aviation Industry.

Lastly, I invite those of you who will have the time to look at some of the beautiful Ugandan sites like the Uganda Wildlife Education Center (zoo) in Entebbe and other tour attractions before you head back home. Please feel at home, the UCAA team shall be available to assist you should you require any assistance during your stay in Uganda.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and I am glad to declare this workshop officially open.