

**SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, HON. MONICA AZUBA NTEGE REPRESENTING THE RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER AT THE OPENING OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN & INDIAN OCEAN (AFI) AVIATION WEEK ON MAY 14, 2019, AT SPEKE RESORT MUNYONYO**

**The ICAO Secretary General,**

**Hon. Minister(s)**

**Officials from the International Civil Aviation Organization,**

**The President of the African Civil Aviation Commission**

**Aviation Stakeholders,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to address you at the opening of such a high profile gathering of global aviation experts to deliberate on the growing changes in the industry while focusing on key elements of safety and security.

I warmly welcome you all to the Pearl of Africa and thank the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) for considering Uganda as worthy hosting partners. This is a vote of confidence in Uganda's air transport system. Uganda is a landlocked country. As such, air transport is vital to our livelihood as a people and of strategic importance for the development and growth of our economy and country. The Government of Uganda attaches great importance to the aviation sector because it guarantees the country direct

international access to promote trade, tourism and social economic development.

Uganda is one of the oldest African Member State of ICAO. While we got our independence in 1962, Uganda contracted with ICAO and became a full member State in 1967. We have since been a very active player in the global air transport arena.

I am pleased to inform you that in a bid to revitalize Uganda's air transport industry and enhance connectivity, especially on the African Continent, we recently procured two Bombardier CRJ 900 aircraft for the National Carrier (Uganda Airlines), which is expected to commence commercial operations in July 2019. We are convinced that this is a move in the right direction that will have a trickle-down effect on other key sectors of the country's economy as the airline is expected to enhance productivity through supporting tourism, trade and build transit for international passengers, among others.

In an effort to expand connectivity outside Africa, Uganda recently signed Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) with Israel, Canada and Switzerland. We have so far concluded 47 BASAs of which 25 have already been operationalized including some under a code share arrangement. This is an indicator of our commitment to open new air routes and to attract more air operators to Uganda.

Aviation Safety, Security and Facilitation is the mandate of each State, which in many cases is delegated to regulatory Authorities to ensure sustainable enhancement of aviation safety, security and facilitation through the effective implementation of ICAO

strategic objectives, revised Abuja Safety Targets, ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and Windhoek Declaration Targets.

I am glad that this symposium is going to discuss and find solutions to emerging threats such as cyber security, land-side security, border security, insider threats and operation of unmanned aircraft systems, which are critical and extremely appropriate in our current global setting.

Safety, Security and Facilitation are key tenets of the aviation industry and heavily influence our government policy for the sector. We could not therefore miss the opportunity to host the two important meetings, given our record and resolve to promote the growth of air transport in the region and continent.

The presence of ICAO and other international bodies plays a leadership role in providing guidance to tackle challenges facing the industry. Uganda is committed to partnering with and supporting ICAO and AFCAC in these efforts.

As you deliberate, I wish to underscore the need to pay special attention to improvement of aviation infrastructure in Africa and implementation of the revised Abuja Safety targets and Windhoek targets for security and facilitation.

I hope that the outcomes of this Conference shall include strategies to achieve uniform implementation of the ICAO Global and Regional Safety and Security initiatives and developments, which different States will share from their experiences.

As a way of enhancing aviation safety oversight in the country and the region, the Uganda Government offered to host the East African Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), which coordinates aviation safety and security issues in the East Africa region.

I am aware that at such meetings you make Decisions and Recommendations. The Government of Uganda will be waiting for the outcome of the meeting, especially those conclusions that have a significant impact on the industry. We will critically examine the areas that need our intervention to ensure implementation.

As I conclude, I would like to appreciate ICAO's continued assistance and support. Uganda's membership to this prestigious organization is not taken for granted. Uganda will continue to observe the requirements of our membership and also meet our obligations. We look forward to hosting more ICAO technical meetings, for, I am sure, our capacity and competence have been tested. The Government will continue to guarantee the conducive environment that has made it possible for experts like you to convene in Kampala. I hope you will find time to tour the beautiful Kampala city of hills and also visit the country side to enjoy the flora and fauna and experience the hospitality of Ugandans.

It is a pleasure and honour for me to declare the 6<sup>th</sup> ICAO African and Indian Ocean (AFI) Aviation Week Conference open.

**Thank you for listening.**