

Institutional Message delivered by the Secretary General of ACI Africa on the occasion of the Yamoussoukro Decision Day 2020

The Secretary General of ACI Africa placed on record the continued leadership of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) during these unprecedented and challenging times for the air transport sector and its stakeholders in Africa, working diligently for a smooth restart of the aviation sector on the continent.



Although the Yamoussoukro Decision has not yet been fully enforced as at date, the principles on which it rests, is certainly the way forward if Africa is to reform its air transport industry and unite its fragmented air transport market in order to bring about the air liberalization revolution and enhance the air connectivity we have all been looking forward to.

Promisingly, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), which effectively rests on the principles of the Yamoussoukro Decision, is a very bold initiative in the right direction for the air transport liberalization in Africa.

The SAATM as well as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA) and the Free Movement of Persons Protocol (FMPP) will certainly not be without hurdles but if we, Africans, are to bring prosperity in Africa for this generation and the ones to follow, we must all leave no stone unturned to ensure their implementation.

These initiatives call for the adoption of a main pillar, which is a common regulatory framework, aiming to open up the African airspace and improve intra-African air connectivity.

As the voice of African airports, ACI Africa is a privileged counsellor to many African airports, and is offering its full support to the SAATM and the other initiatives by acting as a facilitator and coordinator between its airport members and other stakeholders, such as regulatory and oversight authorities, in policy matters governing air transport liberalization.

In those challenging times for our air transport industry, where the finance of all aviation stakeholders, indistinctively, has been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the time is opportune for all States, which have not done so yet, to offer their full support to the implementation of the SAATM as well as the AFCTA and FMPP, in order to give a real chance of recovery and survival to our industry whilst at the same time unlocking the full potential of this incredible continent, which is Africa.