

# **ENHANCING AIR TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH IN WEST AFRICA**

**How to Revitalize, Reimagine and Retool The Aviation  
System in West Africa**

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# PRE-COVID-19 ACHIEVEMENTS IN AVIATION SECTOR IN WEST AFRICA

- Improved safety compliance by States
  - 3 of 15 States had USOAP scores of at or above 68.8% EI
  - 5 of 15 States had ICVM scores of at or above 68.8% EI
  - 7 of 15 States are now at or above the world average
- Increasing passenger demand e.g. The Gambia had 477,336 in 2019
- Massive improvements in air transport infrastructure in some countries in the subregion including: building of ultramodern airport in Senegal, airport improvements in Ghana, Liberia and The Gambia

# CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Commercial air transport will grind to a halt if pandemic continues unabated
- Low air travel demand due to travel restrictions, amongst others.
- IATA indicates that passenger traffic will fall by 54% in Africa whilst ICAO projects that international passenger traffic will fall by 60% during the same period
- COVID-19 has introduced other layers of processing time for airlines due to health requirements

# CURRENT & FUTURE CHALLENGES: cont'd

- Increased cost of travel due to health-related measures. Consequently, cost of air travel will continue to increase
- Lack of enough personnel in key technical areas due to high attrition rate in certain countries
- Slow pace of liberalization and restrictive practices in spite of YD and SAATM
- Inadequate investment in modern systems and solutions
- Dominance of international carriers in the sub region and lack of major West African Carrier

# STRATEGIES AND SECTORAL SYNERGIES

- Provision of relief (government support) especially during this era of COVID-19 pandemic
- Encourage private sector participation in aviation to enhance the sustainability of the industry
- Promote multilateral approach to issues and reinforce regional cooperation. Make BAG and UEMOA more relevant in this endeavor
- Ensure availability of vibrant airlines in the sub region to enhance connectivity as well as compete with successful carriers from other parts of Africa and beyond
- Remove national boundaries in aviation as much as possible. Promote open skies and total liberalization (in short, implement SAATM)
- Encourage and stimulate intra-African tourism aimed at reducing overreliance on traffic from EU

THANK YOU