

HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL MEETING

(Enhancing Air Transport Connectivity and Growth in West Africa)

Panelist

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1. How can air transport connectivity, efficiency and reliability in the region be enhanced in the recovery and post-COVID period?

- a. African Health Authorities need to be convinced that air transport players operate at a standard that guarantees a COVID free environment for the passengers and the workers;
- b. There needs to be a constant dialog between Health Authorities and Aviation Stakeholders to achieve this;
- c. Harmonization of health protocols for a seamless intra-Africa travel is necessary and crucial for the survival of the aviation industry;



1. How can air transport connectivity, efficiency and reliability in the region be enhanced in the recovery and post-COVID period?cont'd

- d. African airlines need to rethink their strategy to focus on intra-Africa Market, as restrictions continue to apply on International markets.
- e. African Development Finance Institutions (ADFIs) should help finance these efforts to re-align strategies.
- f. Strategic realignments will require more capacity adjustment to the demand, and more focus to the SAATM / AfCFTA implementation



2. What is the impact of low intra-regional tourism and trade in the region on operators' ability to withstand the COVID-19 crisis?

- a. Low intra-Africa tourism and trade is the result of the lack of knowledge of what each African country has to offer, and the artificial barriers that exist to access these potentials.
- b. Each African country should undertake to “sell” itself to the rest of Africa, and facilitate access to their hidden treasury.
- c. With the combined effect of African airlines strategic realignment, in an egg and chicken game, change will come.



3. What are the lessons learned on importance of passenger confidence and how can the views and expectations of passengers be considered going forward?

- ✓ Passengers rely on air transport to conduct their activities, meet and connect to people.
- ✓ They quickly adjusted to the restrictions to travel imposed by Government officials.
- ✓ They learnt to keep connected and conduct business through digital platforms, and this is going to stay even after COVID is controlled.



3. What are the lessons learned on importance of passenger confidence and how can the views and expectations of passengers be considered going forward?cont'd

- ✓ I believe the air travel will rely in the future on essential movements of people and goods.
- ✓ Air Cargo will benefit from this new trend.
- ✓ Notions of essential changing over time, as economy gets better, we may see passenger traffic pick-up again

A new competitor is now around – online technology



4. What common measures should be taken at regional level to harmonize policies and to avoid discrimination for both citizens and operators in the application of schemes such as Vaccination passports?

- a. I believe the harmonization of Covid-19 tests protocols is an immediate and urgent step, once the health authorities are confident about what aviation is doing to secure the whole passengers and employees tracks against COVID-19



4. What common measures should be taken at regional level to harmonize policies and to avoid discrimination for both citizens and operators in the application of schemes such as Vaccination passports?cont'd

- b. If we base the reopening strategy on the vaccine, and vaccination passport, it will take 3 to 4 years before we reach herd (group) immunity.
Maybe Health Authorities should listen more to scientists who are actively working on new treatment protocols, that will allow larger access of the population, and faster herd immunity.



4. What common measures should be taken at regional level to harmonize policies and to avoid discrimination for both citizens and operators in the application of schemes such as Vaccination

passports?cont'd

- c. Access to vaccine is very imbalanced. We see it already at global level, where rich countries have more vaccine than they actually need while other regions have none. The same imbalance will play within Africa, and within each country.

In my view a strategy combining the vaccine and the promising treatments is the way to go.



In Summary

1. Let us turn the West African sub region in the single domestic air transport market, just like the EU removing all requirements for BASA, MASA etc
2. Under this deregulated air transport regime, safety is not deregulated, as our autonomous CAAs, BAGASSO, BAGAIA and RASG are in place to ensure safe operation.



In Summary

3. Opportunity of Africa Free Trade (SAATAM) most be exploited to the fullest, in this regards:
 - a. interlining/code sharing between local airlines;
 - b. establishment of local clearing house/BSP,
 - c. entrenchment of corporate governance principle



In Summary

4. Airlines would have latest technology, automation, digitalisation, etc
5. Government should continue the assistance in economic stimulus, palliative, single digit interest rate and most important access to forex
6. Airlines should go after the three “R”:
 - a. Restructuring to a linear and profit oriented business
 - b. Reposition the business in the phase of online competition
 - c. Reset the overall business for survival



THANK YOU

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