

Special Event
Promoting Air Links Between African States and the Diaspora
The Framework of the African Union's Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit
30 March 2017

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Mr. Simon Allotey, a special meeting was held on promoting tourism and air links between African States and the Diaspora, especially in the Caribbean States.

Based on the African Union's "Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit", signed in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2012, participants recognized aviation as a key driver for development, and identified priorities for the development of air links, tourism, trade and investments and drew the following conclusions:

- 1) To respond to the growing demand in tourism from the Americas visiting memory sites in Africa, participants called for a coordinated development of tourism and air transport, including sustainable air transport planning and multi-modal transport plans.
- 2) To overcome the irregularities or non-availability of air links between the two regions, participants stressed the need to facilitate the exchange of air traffic rights, revise existing Bilateral Air Service Agreements and explore opportunities for multilateral agreements, including through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) facility. A dedicated coordination group, formed of African Union Commission, CARICOM and ICAO experts, should develop a model air services agreement,
- 3) To enhance both "hard infrastructure" and "soft infrastructure", participants encouraged States to harmonize regulatory frameworks related to the development of infrastructure, especially for telecommunication and transportation.
- 4) To create linkages between Diaspora academic, research and development institutions, and those of Africa, participants highlighted the importance of education and the critical need for highly educated and skilled professionals to meet the needs of air transport development.

Participants reiterated the "need to celebrate and preserve the shared heritage between Africa and peoples of African descent in the Diaspora" and urged the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the African Union, ICAO, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to conduct meetings at regular intervals to exchange best practices on air transport and tourism policies. Participants thanked the Government of the Republic of Ghana for taking the excellent initiative of organizing this special meeting on the occasion of the last day of the Second ICAO Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Air Transport in Africa and for its generous hospitality.

Accra, Ghana, 30 March 2017