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NIGERIA RE-ELECTED AS PART 2 MEMBER OF ICAO COUNCIL



■ A group of Nigerian delegation led by Honourable Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika at the 41st ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada.

It was a celebration galore for Nigeria in Montreal Canada as it won re-election into the Part 2 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council.

The re-election which took place at the plenary session of the ongoing 41st General Assembly of the organisation in Montreal Canada saw Nigeria garnering 149 votes to be elected for the 15th consecutive time.

Reacting to Nigeria's victory in the elections, Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika who is the leader of the Nigerian delegation at the Assembly, Said the increased number of countries that supported Nigeria showed its rising profile

amongst member-nations.

He expressed appreciation for the support that the Aviation sector has continued to enjoy from President Muhammadu Buhari which has resulted in numerous achievements being celebrated by the global aviation community.

Also speaking on the re-election of Nigeria into the Part 2 of the ICAO Council, the Nigerian High Commissioner in Canada, Ambassador Adeyinka Asekun congratulated the Minister and all those whose contributions resulted in the achievement. He said it was a thing of pride for him as an individual and the High Commissioner to be part of the celebration of the nation's re-election.

NiMeT TRAINS 40 WEATHER FORECASTERS, OBSERVERS ON AVIATION SAFETY

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has trained about 40 Aeronautical Meteorological Observers and Forecasters at the Meteorological Institute, Katsina State.

Declaring the exercise open, the Director-General (DG) of NiMet, Prof. Mansur Bako-Matazu, said the training was to enhance effective service delivery in the aviation sector. DG NiMet was represented by the agency's Director of Weather Forecasting Services, Mailadi Yusuf.

He said the participants were selected across the 36 states of the federation, saying the training would help the forecasters and observers to design routes for aircraft to avoid hazardous phenomena like lightning, icing, turbulence and thunderstorms.

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■ DG NiMet Professor Mansur Bako Matazu

...NiMeT TRAINS 40 WEATHER FORECASTERS, OBSERVERS ON AVIATION SAFETY

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According to him, it will also help them to design other flight hazards that could affect a flight's ability to depart or arrive at its destination on time and safely.

He remind the participants of the importance of forecasting the conditions determined by meteorological parameters such as wind, precipitation, turbulence, temperature and visibility.

"A good and accurate report by a competent meteorological observer would contribute significantly to enhancing flight safety in the country.

"The agency is committed to ensuring

that the observers and forecasters are trained and re-trained to meet the safety standards and guidelines.

Especially those specified by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)."

He said weather forecasting was a key factor in decision-making in the aviation industry, especially during take-off, in-flight and landing, because it prevented flights from dangerous accidents.

"This, in essence, is the main

objective of this week-long training that the agency has organized in fulfilment of the requirements of both the NCAA and ICAO.

"Meteorological observers and forecasters are subjected to training, to keep them up to speed with developments in the aviation sector," he said.

According to him, the agency is conducting the 10th batch of the training instead of the 11th and 12th batches, after the restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown which adversely affected the aviation sector.

NIGERIA'S AVIATION MINISTER HONoured AS CHAMPION OF 'NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND' INITIATIVE

Nigeria's Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika has been recognised and honoured by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as the Champion of the "No Country Left Behind initiative" which the Organization introduced in 2014.

The recognition and award which was bestowed on the Minister at the ongoing ICAO 41st General Assembly in Montreal Canada, come in the wake of other awards Nigeria has received from the organisation since the inception of the Buhari administration.

According to the President of the ICAO Council, Salvatore Siacchitano, the award on Sirika was in recognition of his sterling contributions to the implementation of the initiative, not only in Nigeria but also in other member-nations.

The ICAO President also said Nigeria has remained the only country whose Minister has attended three consecutive assembly meetings as Chief Delegate with quality contributions at all the sessions and further commended the Minister for ensuring that the country's representatives at ICAO since his assumption of office are not only highly experienced professionals but

also committed to the ideals of the organisation.

In his response, Senator Hadi Sirika expressed his appreciation for the award, saying that the recognition was not for him as an individual, but for Nigeria as a country, and particularly President Muhammadu Buhari whose commitment and support for the Aviation sector since he assumed office has been top-notch.

He also dedicated the award to all the past and present individual Nigerians whose contributions to the sector remain indelible, and also those who have worked with him since becoming the Minister of Aviation and ensured the successes recorded.

The Minister reiterated Nigeria's commitment to the ideals of the organisation, and its readiness to continue to assist lesser privileged



ICAO Council President, Salvatore Siacchitano with Aviation Minister Senator Hadi Sirika during the visit by the Minister.

countries to develop their aviation industry in the spirit of "No Nation Left Behind".

The ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative highlights ICAO's efforts to assist States in implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

...NIGERIA'S AVIATION MINISTER HONOURED AS CHAMPION OF 'NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND' INITIATIVE

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The main goal of this work is to help ensure that SARP implementation is better harmonized globally so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe and reliable air transport. It was introduced by Nigeria's Olumuyiwa Bernard Aliu during his tenure as President of the ICAO Council. The NCLB effort also promotes

ICAO's efforts to resolve Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) brought to light through ICAO's safety oversight audits as well as other safety, security and emissions-related objectives. The initiative includes advocacy for the benefits of aviation for States at high levels of government, generating the political will to allocate sufficient resources to aviation

development and thereby also support the sustainable development of States. By demonstrating the strong links between ICAO's Strategic Objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ICAO has successfully advocated for aviation to be viewed as a strategic tool in the economic development of States.

FG TO SANCTION FOREIGN AIRLINES SELLING TICKETS IN DOLLARS

The Federal Government has directed the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority NCAA to sanction foreign airlines in the country over their refusal to accept naira payment for flight tickets.

The Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, made this known at a briefing, after the Federal Executive Council meeting chaired by the President. He said some reports indicated that some of the airlines refuse to sell in naira but charge ticket fares in dollars instead, in violation of Nigerian laws. The minister disclosed that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority has been directed to deal with any of such airlines that are caught flouting the laws.

Sirika cautioned foreign airlines to refrain from using social media to place their demands rather than resorting to diplomatic channels. According to him, foreign airlines



■ Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of Aviation

have made over 1.1 billion dollars so far from Nigeria since 2016, an amount which could have remained in the country if they were local airlines.

He further revealed that the airlines remitted over 600 million dollars to their home countries in 2016, while over 265 million dollars has also been released this year.

FG APPROVES BILATERAL AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT

The Federal Government has approved a bilateral air service agreement with the State of Kuwait. The Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, disclosed this when addressing journalists shortly after the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting. Sirika said that the pact includes reciprocal rights and privileges among which is the opening of air operations between Nigeria and the Gulf country.

"That memorandum has been approved that we should sign the bilateral air service agreement with the State of Kuwait. And of course, this is in line with the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's requirements in line with the convention of December 7, 1944, to which both countries are signatories. "It provides reciprocal rights and privileges for both countries and airlines therefrom," he said.



CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION: NCAA TO LAUNCH CLEAN2BREATHE NIGERIA CAMPAIGN

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has disclosed that its Fly2Green Nigeria initiative is strategic for the launch of the "Clean2Breathe Nigeria" campaign to drive collective net-zero accountability and eco-citizens responsibility aimed at addressing environmental pollution and climate change.

This will be done through green aviation market-based measures that promote eco-advocacy, eco-citizenship, eco-volunteerism, eco-efficiency, eco-innovation, eco-finance, eco-health insurance, eco-tourism and ecosystem conservation schemes to boost the contribution of National and regional aviation sector towards the achievement of a 1.5°C future in Nigeria and Africa.

The Authority gave this indication as it joined the global community to commemorate the third International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies tagged: "The Air We Share" with a particular focus on the transboundary nature of air pollution and the need for collective accountability and action.

Through its incentive-based green travel program and robust voluntary carbon emissions reduction scheme, Fly2Green Nigeria is designed to map out a decarbonization strategy for the Nigeria Aviation Industry, domesticate the National Policy on Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) and implement strategic partnerships with relevant Green, Blue and Circular Economy stakeholders to launch the first Clean Air-Blue Skies Advocacy Program in Nigeria tagged "Clean2Breathe Nigeria" - a 'Zero Air Pollution' advocacy campaign to boost local air quality against SLCPs.

Regarding "Fly2Green for The Air We Share", it is the cardinal imperative of the NCAA under the leadership of its Director General, Capt. Musa Nuhu to activate Climate-smart solutions for Sustainable aviation through the Fly2Green Nigeria Initiative; integrating the ambitions and long-term goal aspirations of CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) through market-based measures designed to mainstream ICAO's



(International Civil Aviation Organization) Basket Measures of Green Aviation to check the emerging climate emergencies of Nigeria, while maintaining the "Common but Differentiated" responsibility commitments of the Paris climate agreement.

Meanwhile, the NCAA looks forward to a National Clean Air Policy Partnerships Framework, as it positions the Fly2Green Nigeria program to launch the "Clean2Breathe Nigeria" campaign as an aviation sector-led zero pollution mobilization tool to jumpstart National action and commitments to meet the Nationally Determined Contribution Targets of Nigeria.

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated September 7 of every year as the International Day of Clean Air for the blue skies to raise awareness and mobilize global action to address air pollution which represents one of the biggest threats to human health.

This year's event focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution and the need for collective accountability and action which requires collaborative efforts from businesses, communities, civil society, academia, policymakers and government to advocate, accelerate and activate climate-smart solutions for net-zero emission footprint.

Without a doubt, air pollution has both a climate impact and a health impact that transcends and permeates national borders, posing

risks to 99% of the world's population who now breathe polluted air and causing 7 million premature deaths each year.

Quite ironically, Africa does not contribute more than 3% of Greenhouse Gas emissions, yet the continent is warming faster than any other region in the world and is half-ready to make the transition to carbon-neutral economies. In the drive for collective accountability and action to tackle environmental pollution and climate change, the aviation sector has a huge role to play.

With a call to action for sustainability anchored on a few climate change facts: The aviation sector is a top-ten global emitter whose emissions are expected to rise dramatically by mid-century. The industry is responsible for an estimated 4.9% of global warming and its climate impact is not restricted to its CO₂ emissions alone—more than half of aviation's climate impact comes from non-CO₂ pollutants.

Climate change and Air pollution are inseparable environmental challenges both of which require integrated approaches to tackle and ensure significant shared benefits for the people and planet. Hence, the urgency for multi-industry emissions reduction programs like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO's) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) Mechanism and the Fly2Green Nigeria Initiative of the NCAA.

NIGERIA AIR: FG SELECTS ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AS PREFERRED BIDDER

The Federal Government has selected Ethiopian Airlines (ET) Consortium as the preferred bidder for Nigeria Air. The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika made this known during a media briefing in Abuja.

According to him, ET scored 89 per cent out of 100 as regards the technical bid and 15 out of 20 as regards the financial bid.

Sirika explained that the Request for Proposal (RFP) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act, governed by Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) regarding Nigeria Air was now completed.

"After a careful, detailed and ICRC governed selection process, Ethiopian Airlines (ET) Consortium has been selected as the preferred bidder, offering an owner consortium

of three Nigerian investors.

"Ethiopian Airlines 49%, Nigerian private investors (SAHCO, MRS and other institutional investors) 46% and the Federal Government 5%. The consortium has been subject to a due diligence process.

"The contract will be negotiated between the consortium and FGN leading to a Full Business Case (FBC) which will be expected to be approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC). We expect this process to take 6-8 weeks."

The minister said the national carrier would be launched with three Boeing 737-800 in a configuration very suitable for the Nigerian market.

According to him, Nigeria Air will be launched with a shuttle service between Abuja and Lagos to establish a new comfortable, reliable and affordable travel between the two

major Nigerian Airports. Sirika added that other domestic destinations would follow thereafter.

"The first aircraft is ready to arrive in Abuja for further work and NCAA inspection, demo flights and audit as part of the AOC requirements.

"In time, two others will arrive to complete the required three aircraft for a new AOC holder. The interim executive team has prepared, with the support of FAAN.

"The team has arranged for Terminal C at the Abuja Airport and finalised a contract with MMA 2 terminal in Lagos, for the operation of an initial shuttle between Lagos and Abuja," he said.

He noted that the Operations Control Centre (OCC) at the Abuja Airport would act as the Headquarters of the airline.

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE UNIVERSITY ABUJA COMMENCES ADMISSION NOVEMBER – SIRIKA

Aviation Minister, Senator Hadi Sirika has announced that the African Aviation and Aerospace University will commence registration for the 2022/2023 academic session on 0-18th November 2022.

He made this disclosure during a media interaction on the Aviation University in his office. He said the main objective of the establishment of the Aviation university is the need for the country to go into field research development in the areas of aviation and aerospace.

He, however, said that the Aviation university would be a pan-African university, not limiting its intake of students to only Africa, but Nigeria will be the focus centre. The university is supposed to be a high-breed university and will be an on-campus and online university.

"For the start-up, lectures will be done at our temporary headquarters at the Accident Investigative Bureau building at the airport and some of the lectures will be done at Nile University of Nigeria and we will need dormitories, a cafeteria, and laboratories." He added

Sirika noted that for the first academic



■ Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of Aviation

year which is 2022 the University will be limited to BSc Aviation Business and BSc Meteorology programmes and students for each course will be between 20-25 each due to the availability of the facility and for maximum efficiency, while in the second academic year masters in air transport management.

"We have been on this project since 2016 because we know it's a very rigorous exercise, we need to put in

place all the requirements by the National University Commission, they have been very supportive, and guided us through the process.

"We will be partnering with the Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja, we have a Memorandum Of Understanding which we will sign. "We will soon avail the website which is www.aaau.edu.ng, we need other requirements to activate the website," He said.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

The Ministry under the leadership of Hon. Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika is committed to delivering the key components of the Aviation sector Roadmap which is aimed at creating enabling environment for the industry to thrive. The roadmap comprises the following:

- i. Concession of four Airports
- ii. Establishment of a National Carrier (Nigeria Air)
- iii. Development of Agro-Allied /Cargo Terminals
- iv. Establishment of Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) Centre
- v. Establishment of an Aviation Leasing Company (ALC)
- vi. Development of Aerotropolis (Airport Cities)
- vii. Establishment of an Aerospace University.
- viii. Improvement in Aviation Safety and Security through upgrades and Modernization of Aviation Infrastructure and facilities.

Ministry of Aviation, Federal Secretariat Phase I, Shehu Shagari Way, Central Business District, FCT - Abuja

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ICAO, QATAR TO PARTNER WITH NIGERIA ON AVIATION UNIVERSITY

The President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council, Salvatore Siacchitano has restated the commitment of the organisation to partner with Nigeria in the establishment, provision of funding and faculty of the African Aviation and Aerospace University (AAAU) in Abuja.

The ICAO President gave the assurance when Nigeria's Minister of Aviation Senator Hadi Sirika led the country's delegation to the 41st General Assembly of the organisation to his office at the ICAO headquarters in Montreal Canada.

According to him, ICAO would always be part of every effort geared towards addressing the manpower needs of member nations in order to service and manage the ever-expanding Aviation industry, asserting that Nigeria's decision to establish the university was a welcome development.

The University, he said, would represent a new channel for the training of professional managers for the industry, especially within the African region, being the first of its kind in the continent.

He, therefore, promised to personally visit the site for the University during the forthcoming ICAO Air Negotiation event (ICAN) being hosted by Nigeria in December. The visit, according to him, will give him a clearer picture of the immediate needs and the level of participation of the organisation.

Siacchitano also used the visit to express ICAO's appreciation to the government of Nigeria for its commitment to the ideals of the organisation at all times, saying that the acceptance to host the ICAN event was a clear demonstration of the said commitment.

Responding, Senator Sirika expressed Nigeria's gratitude to the ICAO Council President for his reassurance of the Council's earlier pledge to be involved in the University project, informing him that all the necessary regulatory requirements have been met and approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

He assured that the forthcoming



■ Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika with ICAO President Salvatore Siacchitano during the visit by the Minister.

ICAN event holding in Nigeria will be a resounding success just like the earlier ICAO events hosted by the country.

In a similar development, the government of Qatar has also expressed its readiness to participate in the establishment and running of the African Aviation and Aerospace University located in Abuja.

The Qatari Minister of Transport, Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti disclosed this in a meeting with Nigeria's Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika at the sidelines of the ongoing 41st General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.

According to the Minister, the government of Qatar is excited to partner with Nigeria by providing some funding and training of its manpower in the university, noting that it will be a better option for his country.

Nigeria / Ethiopian Airlines Partnership on Nigeria Air, a Boost to African Aviation Industry - Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics The Nigeria Air project has been described as a partnership between the two highest populated African nations that will impact greatly on the Aviation industry in the continent and intergovernmental relationships.

This was the declaration of the Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics, Mrs Dagamawit Moges when she led the country's delegation at the 41st General Assembly of ICAO on a courtesy visit to the Aviation Minister, Senator Hadi Sirika at the Nigerian ICAO Mission office in Montreal Canada.

According to her, the government of Ethiopia, particularly, Ethiopian

Airlines, is very excited about the partnership for the establishment of Nigeria's national carrier and hoped that it will open new vistas for partnership in other areas, political and economic.

She commended the Nigerian government for picking Ethiopian Airlines as the Preferred partner for the national carrier out of the numerous interests that were expressed, assuring that the consideration would not be taken for granted.

Mrs Moges also said that Nigeria, with its position as a major player in the global aviation industry, remains an attractive partner and expressed optimism that the establishment of Nigeria Air will be beneficial to all involved, including the Nigerian teeming populace.

Welcoming the Ethiopian Minister and her delegation, Senator Hadi Sirika stated that the decision to establish the national carrier through a partnership was not because Nigeria lacked the capacity to do it, but because it wanted to avoid the issues that led to the collapse of the previous national carrier.

He said that the choice of Ethiopian Airlines was based on the premise of having shown that government business can be run profitably, apart from being an African airline that has carved a niche for itself in the world air transportation industry.

Sirika described the national carrier project as one that was dear to the heart of President Muhammadu Buhari, saying that its successful delivery amounted to a major boost to the development and success of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) to which both countries are signatories.

COUNTRY STATEMENT BY SENATOR HADI SIRIKA, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF AVIATION, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA DURING THE 41st ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO) MONTREAL, CANADA. 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

The President of the ICAO Council – Salvatore Sciachitano

The Secretary General of ICAO – Juan Carlos Salazar

The President of the 41st Assembly – Ms Poppy Khoza

Distinguished Heads of Delegations and States delegates

Eminent Observers here present
Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is a privilege as well as an honour to address this august assembly of experts and managers of global civil aviation for a record third time as Minister of Aviation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria having been opportune to do this at the 39th and 40th Assemblies in 2016 and 2019 respectively.

2. First, let me extend to you all, very warm greetings and felicitations from President Muhammadu Buhari, and the good people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I also wish to join other delegations to congratulate the President of the 41st Assembly, Ms Poppy Khoza and other elected officials of the Assembly.

3. Dear delegates, as we gather here today to reflect on the developments that have taken place and the achievements and setbacks that we have recorded since the 40th Assembly, particularly the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on air travel globally, the type never witnessed since the end of World War II.

On this note I wish to congratulate the Member States, International Organisations and all industry stakeholders for the determination, resolve, cooperation and coordination under the able

leadership of ICAO in handling the devastating impact of the pandemic. Through our collective efforts, we were able to find new and even better ways and strategies to restart, improve and facilitate the recovery of international air transportation beyond the next triennium. On this note, I must acknowledge that the ICAO Council recovery Task Force (CART) provided excellent guidance on how to resume air transport operations, while at the same time meeting the public health requirements.

4. Let me also commend the ICAO Council and the Secretariat for successfully organizing this year's Innovation fair. Building upon lessons learned from the experience of the COVI-19 pandemic, this fair focused on "Innovation for a resilient International Civil Aviation system". We however believe that successes in technological advancement should be complemented by the modernization of global regulatory frameworks through the liberalization of market access and convergence of regulatory approaches. This would maximize the socio-economic benefits of air transport and enhance the comfort and convenience of consumers of our services.

5. Since Nigeria became a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council in 1962, it has continued to make valuable contributions to the ICAO Council's work, and its activities. Nigeria has been playing a key role in supporting the implementation of ICAO Standards, Policies and Programs internationally, and particularly in the African region. To this end, Nigeria has ratified all international air law instruments including the Montreal Protocol and amendments to articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention. Nigeria is also championing the cause of Aviation safety, security and Facilitation in

Africa.

6. Distinguished delegates, may I inform you that the Nigerian Government in its bid to ensure continuous compliance with ICAO Standards and to meet the challenges of a rapidly growing air transport sector, has continued to maintain properly funded agencies in order to enhance aviation safety, and ensure the effective and efficient provision and management of infrastructure in all aspects of the industry as well as guarantee its sustainable development. These include an autonomous Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) for safety and economic oversight of the industry; the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) for air navigation services; the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) for management of all airports; and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) for meteorological services including aeronautical meteorology. A bill to establish Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) has been passed by our bicameral parliament. This will transform the Nigerian Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) into a multi-modal Transport safety investigation agency.

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), the nation's main training organization was established in 1964 in collaboration with ICAO, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The College was recently certified as an ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence. It runs ICAO Training Courses, in addition to its primary function of providing ab-initio and advanced technical and managerial training. The Government recently approved the establishment of an African Aviation and Aerospace University in Abuja to cater for research and development as well as the development of higher-level manpower.

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In this regard, Nigeria is looking forward to the support of ICAO under its No Country Left Behind initiative.

7. Nigeria is fully committed to working with other States and to support the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) as well as the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP). Over time, Nigeria has seconded auditors to support various ICAO programmes in the areas of safety and security and has also contributed experts on various ICAO technical panels and working groups.

8. Since the inception of the Regional Safety Oversight Organisation, the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO), Nigeria has continued to host the organization and has remained its major contributor. In the same vein, it has continued to support the activities of the Regional Accident Investigation Agency the Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency (BAGAIA).

9. In its effort to support ICAO's work and activities in the Air transport field and promote economic regulation as the industry recovers from the Covid-19 crisis, Nigeria has donated substantial sum to the ICAO voluntary Air Transport Fund. We have also made significant financial contribution to the Safety and Human Resource Development Funds (HRDF), in addition to hosting several ICAO Meetings, workshops and other programmes such as the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Symposium (RPAS) and the 3rd ICAO World Aviation Forum (IWAF) in 2017. In May 2022 the seventh meeting of AFI Aviation week was hosted by Nigeria. The Country will also be hosting the 14th edition of the ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN) from 5th to 9th December 2022.

10. Nigeria has been a great supporter of liberalization and has

continued to champion the liberalization efforts in Africa through the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). I must commend the African States and African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) for their renewed and vigorous commitment to the development of Air Transportation in Africa, especially the implementation of SAATM. This will not only enhance air connectivity in the continent, it will also promote tourism, trade, commerce, integration and economic development, as well as contribute to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the African Union agenda 2063.

11. I wish to call on ICAO to continue to encourage and support regional liberalization efforts, as they could be used as incentives to achieve a global multilateral agreement on the liberalization of market access.

12. I am happy to inform you that Nigeria's efforts on liberalization have led to a significant increase in the operations of foreign and domestic airlines and the utilization of our airports, resulting in annual traffic growth of over eight per cent (8%). Since the coming of President Buhari, we have quadrupled the passenger numbers, doubled the number of airports, doubled the number of airlines and increased catering and other business, such that Aviation before covid became the fastest-growing sector of the Nigerian economy. Our determination is to make Nigeria the most competitive hub of the African region and make air travel the preferred mode of transportation, taking advantage of our population of over 215 million, 923,768 square kilometre land mass, at the center of the continent with the rising middle class and modest formal GDP of \$450billion.

13. We are fully aware that achieving

these would require a robust industry that is safe, secure, efficient and environmentally friendly, with modern and adequate infrastructure. This has been the focus of the Nigerian Government and have been succeeding thus far.

14. The Government of Nigeria has continued to make significant investments in the provision of aviation infrastructure and facilities for the safe, secure, environmentally friendly, and sustainable economic development of international civil aviation. It will also keep supporting the ideals and aspirations of ICAO, and the achievements of its strategic objectives, in collaboration with other Member States of the Organization

15. With regard to aviation security, Nigeria has continued to record significant improvements in this area with the installation of modern security equipment at our airports, continuous implementation of our national aviation security programme and up-to-date training for Aviation Security Personnel.

16. I am happy to inform you that the Training School of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria is certified by ICAO to train aviation security personnel. This facility will be available to train aviation security personnel both in Nigeria and in the West African Sub-region.

17. It is also noteworthy to mention, that Nigeria has continued to participate in the ICAO Public Key Directory (ICAO PKD), and support ICAO's efforts to provide assistance to the other African States in their programmes to introduce e-passports.

18. In the area of environmental protection, Nigeria is voluntarily participating in the pilot stage of ICAO's Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and has provided capacity training to the many African States in support of the CORSIA scheme

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under the ICAO ACT-CORSIA programme. Nigeria is a member of the Technical Advisory Body (TAB), a body that makes recommendations to the Council on the eligible emissions units for use by the CORSIA as well as being a member of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), a technical committee of the ICAO Council established in 1983.

19. Distinguished delegates, as I earlier mentioned, Nigeria has been a member of the ICAO Council since 1962. We hold our membership of ICAO and its Council reverently and we, therefore, cherish the opportunity to work together with the other Member States in advancing the work of the Organization for greater efficiency and effectiveness, in line with ICAO's strategic objectives.

20. It is an honour and privilege to use this opportunity to solicit the support of ICAO Member States for Nigeria's re-election into Part 2 of the ICAO Council. In addition, Nigeria also requests your support for the election and re-election of those African States, which have been endorsed by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), to the ICAO Council.

21. Distinguished colleagues, On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I congratulate the President of the ICAO Council, Mr Salvatore Sciacchiatano, the Secretary General of ICAO, Mr Juan Carlos Salazar and the entire ICAO Secretariat for a well-organized 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. I also like to express my profound gratitude,

to the government and people of Canada, for the kind hospitality accorded my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Montreal, which has become a second home to all Aviators around the world.

22. I wish us all a most successful deliberation and meaningful outcomes that would shape the course of international air transport in the next triennium and leave no Country behind.

23. Thank you for your attention.

Senator Hadi Sirika
Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Aviation
Abuja, Nigeria.

27th September 2022

NIGERIA AIR BEGINS RECRUITMENT EXERCISE AHEAD OF LAUNCH

The new national carrier for Nigeria, Nigeria Air Limited, has commenced recruitment of qualified crew members for key positions ahead of its official launch.

In the advert placed in the newspaper, it says "Nigeria Air is now recruiting qualified crew for the following positions: Experienced, and current B737 Captains; Experienced, and Current B737 First Officers; Experienced, and Current B737 Senior Cabin Crew and Cabin Crew Experienced, and Current B737 Engineers (B1/B2 preferred)." According to the advert, the positions which are based in Lagos and Abuja attract competitive salaries. "an application portal for other open positions will be available shortly on the NigeriaAir website."

It added that candidates who meet the requirements of the current operational positions should as a matter of urgency forward their Curriculum Vitae (Cvs).



It further added that only suitable candidates will be invited for interview, noting that those who did not meet up with the criteria won't get a response from the ministry.

"Your application will be carefully assessed, and suitable candidates will be invited for an interview. We will

not reply to applications that do not meet the above criteria."

Nigeria Air Limited, which is the new National Carrier of Nigeria is expected to be launched shortly with "Boeing 737-800 (NG) aircraft, followed thereafter with B787 aircraft for international operations.

NIGERIA/ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES PARTNERSHIP ON NIGERIA AIR, A BOOST TO AFRICAN AVIATION INDUSTRY - ETHIOPIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



■ Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics Mrs. Dagamawit Moges and Minister of Aviation Sen. Hadi Sirika

The Nigeria Air project has been described as a partnership between the two highest populated African nations that will impact greatly the Aviation industry in the continent and intergovernmental relationships. This was the declaration of the Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics, Mrs Dagamawit Moges when she led the country's delegation at the 41st General Assembly of ICAO on a courtesy visit to the Aviation Minister, Senator Hadi Sirika at the Nigerian ICAO Mission office in Montreal Canada. According to her, the government of Ethiopia, particularly, Ethiopian Airlines, is very excited about the partnership for the establishment of Nigeria's national carrier and hoped that it will open new vistas for

partnership in other areas, political and economic.

She commended the Nigerian government for picking Ethiopian Airlines as the Preferred partner for the national carrier out of the numerous interests that were expressed, assuring that the consideration would not be taken for granted.

Mrs Moges also said that Nigeria, with its position as a major player in the global aviation industry, remains an attractive partner and expressed optimism that the establishment of Nigeria Air will be beneficial to all involved, including the Nigerian teeming populace.

Welcoming the Ethiopian Minister and her delegation, Senator Hadi Sirika stated that the decision to establish the national carrier through

a partnership was not because Nigeria lacked the capacity to do it, but because it wanted to avoid the issues that led to the collapse of the previous national carrier.

He said that the choice of Ethiopian Airlines was based on the premise of having shown that government business can be run profitably, apart from being an African airline that has carved a niche for itself in the world air transportation industry.

Sirika described the national carrier project as one that was dear to the heart of President Muhammadu Buhari, saying that its successful delivery amounted to a major boost to the development and success of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) to which both countries are signatories.



MINISTRY OF AVIATION



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All correspondence should be addressed to:

Public Affairs Division,
Ministry of Aviation,
Federal Secretariat Phase I,
Shehu Shagari Way,
Central Business District,
FCT - Abuja

 @FMAVIATIONNG
 FMAVIATIONNG
 FMAVIATIONNG
 info@aviation.gov.ng
 www.aviation.gov.ng