

Notes for Closing Remarks by the President of the Council

*His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde,
Ulisses Correia e Silva*

*His Excellency Honourable Minister of Tourism and Transport,
Dr. José da Silva Gonçalves,*

Your Excellencies the Ministers of Tourism and Air Transport here present,

Her Excellency the African Union Commissioner, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is a real pleasure for me to provide closing remarks on the completion of this first-ever ICAO/UNWTO Ministerial Conference on Air Transport and Tourism in Africa.
- Once again I thank the Government and people of Cabo Verde for the hospitality that we have enjoyed in the past few days. My appreciation also goes to **His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Ulisses Correia e Silva**, for finding time to join us this afternoon.
- The large number of Honourable Ministers and Experts from air transport and tourism sectors that participated in this meeting, the zeal shown and the insightful contributions in the last three days, underscore the determination and political will to foster the development and growth of air transport and tourism in Africa.
- To achieve this, you highlighted the key issues including the need for;
 - - (i) Continuing to maximize the socio economic benefits of air transport and tourism sectors for the African States,
 - (ii) good governance and harmonized aviation and tourism policies and action plans at national and regional levels;

- (iii) improved, transparent and conducive environment to attract more investments and private sector participation to develop quality aviation and tourism infrastructure;
 - (iv) better intra-African air connectivity;
 - (v) ensuring that each and every African State can benefit from access to the intra-African air links, even without a national carrier,
 - (vi) continue to work to reduce the costs of Air travel and Tourism in Africa, through the reduction of taxes impacting both sectors;
 - (vii) Increased visa openness solutions for free movement of people within the continent; in accordance with the African Union policies, among others.
- I also heard a unanimous affirmation on the need for better cooperation and collaboration, increased support and improved exchange of ideas between the two sectors with the aim of maximizing their socio-economic benefits to the good people of Africa.
 - In this vein, you expressed this determination of closer work between the two sectors in a pragmatic way by adopting a *Declaration and Framework for a Plan of Action for Air Transport and Tourism Development in Africa*. I am optimistic that with the enthusiasm, passion and commitment that you have shown in this meeting, the *Declaration and Framework for a Plan of Action* will be fully implemented.
 - ICAO under its *No Country Left Behind (NCLB)* Initiative will continue to work with the UNWTO, the African Union (AU), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the industry and our development partners on the implementation of this Sal Island *Declaration and Framework for a Plan of Action*.
 - I wish you all safe and pleasant journeys to your destinations. Thank you

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