



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
PARIS.

# **FINAL VOTE OF THANKS**

PREPARED FOR  
**HON. DR.CHARLES ROMEL BANDA**  
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ARTS  
AND  
CHAIR OF THE UNWTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**First UNWTO/ICAO Ministerial Conference on  
Tourism and Air Transport in Africa.**

**27 - 29 March 2019**

**Santa Maria, Sal Island,  
CABO VERDE**

## **SALUTATIONS**

**Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman, all protocol observed.**

I FEEL PRIVILEGED AND HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A VOTE OF THANKS FOR THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> UNWTO/ICAO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AND AIR TRANSPORT IN AFRICA ON BEHALF OF THE UNWTO, MY FELLOW MINISTERS AND INDEED ALL THE DELEGATES THAT TRAVELLED TO COME AND ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

FIRSTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO OUR HOST, THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE AND THE RESIDENTS OF SAL ISLAND, FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN US SINCE WE ARRIVED ON THIS BEAUTIFUL ISLAND. WE ARRIVED AS STRANGERS BUT NOW WE WILL ALL BE LEAVING AS ONE OF YOU. HON MINISTER, I CAN CONFIDENTLY SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL DELEGATES THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL COUNTRY AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE. I AM PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE WARM HOSPITALITY ALREADY EXTENDED TO US.

**COLLEAGUES**, THIS GATHERING WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS WITHOUT THE COMMITMENT PUT IN TO PROVIDE US WITH ALL THE LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, BELIEVE ME WE HAVE BEEN THERE AND I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE THAT ORGANISING MEETINGS OF THIS NATURE IS NOT ALWAYS EASY, THEREFORE HON. MINISTER AND YOUR PEOPLE, WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE JOB WELL DONE FOR HOSTING SUCH A SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

MAY I ALSO CONGRATULATE UNWTO AND ICAO FOR FINALLY ORGANISING AND FACILITATING THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. GOING FORWARD, I WISH TO HIGHLIGHT AND REEMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANISATIONS ESPECIALLY ON THE NEED TO MOBILISE RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWO SECTORS.

**COLLEAGUES,** TOURISM AND AIR TRANSPORTATION ARE LIKE SIAMESE TWINS. TOURISM AND AIR TRANSPORT SECTORS ARE INTERDEPENDENT AND COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER. TOURISM DEPENDS ON TRANSPORTATION TO BRING VISITORS, WHILE THE TRANSPORT ALSO DEPENDS ON TOURISM TO GENERATE DEMAND FOR ITS SERVICES. THUS, GROWTH IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY DIRECTLY IMPACTS THE AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY. THEREFORE, THIS MEETING WOULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME THAN NOW.

FROM ALL DELIBERATIONS OF THE PAST THREE DAYS, I AM SURE WE ALL ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT GROWTH IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IS DEPENDENT ON TRANSPORTATION GENERALLY, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, ON AIR TRANSPORT. THEREFORE, IF WE ARE TO FULFIL OUR EXPECTATIONS OF INCREASED ARRIVALS AND EARNINGS, TOURISM AND TRANSPORT POLICIES SHOULD BE HARMONIZED AND INTEGRATED IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND AT REGIONAL LEVEL.

**COLLEAGUES,** FROM THIS MEETING IT IS CLEAR THAT FOR US IN AFRICA IT IS OF ATMOST IMPORTANCE TO CHANNEL MORE EFFORTS AND RESOURCES INTO MAKING OUR REGION AND OUR RESPECTIVE DESTINATIONS ACCESSIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE. THE WORLD HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE PLAYED BY AIR TRANSPORT IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURISM SECTOR AND AS A CONTINENT, WE SHOULD EMBRACE THE SAME. THEREFORE, THIS MEETING CALLS FOR A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE TOURISM AND TRANSPORT SECTORS WORK HAND IN HAND IN ORDER FOR THE TWO SECTORS TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CONTINENTAL ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT, AS ENSHRINED IN THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063.

I THIS REGARD, ON MY BEHALF OF MY GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE HON. JOSE GONÇALVES MINISTER OF MINISTER OF TOURISM, TRANSPORT AND MARITIME ECONOMY I WISH TO THANK ALL THE MINISTERS THAT FOUND TIME TO COME AND ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE AND

PARTICIPATE IN DELIBERATIONS OF VARIOUS SESSION. YOUR PRESENCE SIGNIFIES THE IMPORTANCE AND COMMITMENT OF THE CAUSE AT POLITICAL AND POLICY LEVEL.

I HARBOUR NO DOUBT THAT GIVEN THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN VARIOUS SESSIONS, HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN EVEN MORE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERAL KEY ISSUES OF EXTREME RELEVANCE TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF TOURISM AND AIR TRANSPORT IN AFRICA.

**DEAR COLLEAGUES**, GOING FORWARD IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF US POLITICAL LEADERS THAT ATTENDED THIS CONFERENCE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CABO VERDE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON AIR TRANSPORT AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION 2019-2021 THAT WE HAVE JUST APPROVED. WITHOUT THIS COMMITMENT OUR EFFORTS AT THIS MEETING WILL JUST GO IN VAIN

I AM ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT VESTED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE WILL MAKE THIS EVENT A MEMORABLE ONE FOR ALL DELEGATES.

ONCE AGAIN, **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**, JOIN ME IN EXTENDING FURTHER OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE FOR AN EXCELLENT TIME AND EXPERIENCE WE HAVE BEEN ACCORDED.

MORE OFTEN WE TEND TO FORGET THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE IT HAPPEN THE PEOPLE THAT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. IT IS THEREFORE, MY HONOUR TO APPLAUD ALL THE STAFF AND EVERYONE INVOLVED THAT WORKED TIRELESSLY BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS MEETING.

FINALLY, MAY I WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS A SAFE TRAVEL BACK TO OUR RESPECTIVE DESTINATIONS. FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE A BIT OF TIME

LET US TAKE SOME TIME TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL  
ISLAND AND ITS PEOPLE.

I THANK YOU ALL

**END**

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