

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
30 - 31 January 2015
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU/Dec. 546-568(XXIV)
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Assembly/AU/Commitment(XXIV)

**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTIONS**



**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
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Assembly/AU/Commitment(XXIV)

**SOLEMN COMMITMENT BY AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES TO
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YAMOUSSOUKRO DECISION
TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE AFRICAN
AIR TRANSPORT MARKET BY 2017**



SOLEMN COMMITMENT BY AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YAMOUSSOUKRO DECISION TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET BY 2017

WE, the Heads of States and Governments of the Member States of the African Union (AU) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 2015 to deliberate on the establishment of a single air transport market and commit on the modalities for the pursuit and acceleration of its implementation,

Considering the Constitutive Act of the African Union, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo, in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16 which entrust the African Union Commission with a coordination mission in the Transport, Communication and Tourism sectors;

Further Considering the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) in particular Article 61 relating to the integration of air transport and Article 10 relating to the Authority of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government to adopt decisions;

Recognising the relevance of the objective of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a new African civil aviation policy adopted on 7 October 1988 whose primary purpose was to create a conducive environment for the development of intra-African and international air services;

Noting the Executive Council Decision Relating to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision Concerning the Liberalisation of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa (the Yamoussoukro Decision) adopted by the Council Decision CM/2178 (LXX11) of 8 July 2000 as endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government by Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (IV) of 12 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo and which entered into force on 12 August 2000 calling for full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision within two years by 2002;

Recalling the African Ministers Responsible for Air Transport, meeting in Sun City, South Africa, from 18 to 19 May 2005 expressing serious concerns about the delay in the implementation of the Decision, and taking note of progress some states have made in that regard, called for measures that will ensure effective implementation including the establishment of the African Air Transport Executing Agency (Executing Agency) provided for in the Yamoussoukro Decision under the auspices of the African Union;

Respectful of the Assembly Decision /AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during its 18th Ordinary Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 and 30 January 2012 on boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area;

Bearing in Mind of the Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.821(XXV)** of 26 June 2014 placing the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalisation

of Air Transport Markets in Africa and more particularly the establishment of a single African aviation market in the context of the African Agenda 2063;

Cognisant of the outcome of the Africa-wide meeting on air transport organised jointly by the AUC, AFCAC and AFRAA in Nairobi, from 29 to 31 October 2014 which completed the validation of the regulatory and institutional texts for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and recognising their endorsement by the Executive Council Decision, **EX.CL/Dec.857(XXVI)** 28 January 2015 ;

Mindful of the globalisation of the world economy and the need to create a conducive environment for the development and provision of safe, reliable and affordable air transport services necessary for the free movement of persons, goods and services in Africa;

Taking into Account the importance of enhancing cooperation among African airlines in order to stimulate the development of inter-African air transport and the need to improve the quality of service to consumers through full liberalisation of African air transport markets;

Recognising the necessity to adopt measures with the aim of establishing a liberalised intra-African aviation market concerning the Single African Air Transport Market;

Convinced that, given the different levels of air transport development in Africa, it is necessary to endorse the Pretoria Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Working Group on Air Transport on 21 January 2015 which will lead towards full continental open sky intra-African operations by Africa airlines in January 2017;

Determined to accelerate the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the liberalisation of air transport markets in Africa,

Aware of the strong commitment already shown by a number of Member States in spearheading the liberalisation of the air transport markets throughout the continent and encourage others to follow suite.

We hereby,

1. **EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT** to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market and open our air transport market to each other;
2. **ENTRUST** the AU Commission to coordinate and facilitate the process of operationalisation of the Single Air Transport Market in Africa; and to report to the Conference of Ministers of Transport;
3. **DEVELOP** regulatory frameworks to expedite the implementation of the single air transport market and engage all specialized institutions in Aviation Sector to support Member States in this process;

4. **REPORT** to the Union on the progress made in the implementation and operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market.

The following Member States hereby declare their solemn commitment to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017. These Member States will be constituted as a working group at Ministerial Level in order to achieve its goal and it will remain open to those that will join later.

List of Countries

1. Benin
2. Cape Verde
3. Congo Republic
4. Cote d'Ivoire
5. Egypt
6. Ethiopia
7. Kenya
8. Nigeria
9. Rwanda
10. South Africa
11. Zimbabwe

