



## Investment in aviation infrastructure key to unlocking aviation growth in Africa

For immediate release

**Montréal and Abuja, 19 March 2019** – At a workshop hosted by the Government of Nigeria today, ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu delivered a stark caution: the realization of better air connectivity in Africa, and the crucial sustainable development it promises, will only be accomplished through the mobilization of sufficient and appropriate investment.

“It is especially urgent for Africa to address its aviation infrastructure gaps, given current and high levels of awareness of how air connectivity has become such a unique and indispensable catalyst for socio-economic growth on this continent,” Dr. Aliu remarked at the 2019 *Aviation Infrastructure for Africa Gap Analysis Workshop*.

ICAO long-term traffic forecasts presently indicate that passenger and freight traffic for the African region are expected to grow by 4.3 per cent and 3.8 per cent annually through 2035. Currently accounting for four per cent of global air transport services, Africa presents the highest potential for growth out of all of ICAO’s global regions.

“The launch last year of the African Union’s Single Market demonstrated Africa’s unity and agreement of the fact that aviation connectivity’s socio-economic benefits are real, sustainable, and worthy of the attention and commitments of African Governments,” Dr Aliu insisted. “But rapidly-expanding air traffic and enhanced air connectivity can only be sustained with continued investment and development for aviation infrastructure, capacity and technology, supported by a regulatory framework which is ICAO compliant and therefore harmonized with other States and Regions.”

ICAO plays a key role in fostering effective partnerships between donors, investors and States-in-need, primarily by facilitating local capacity-building and resource mobilization under its *No Country Left Behind* initiative. However mobilizing dependable long-term financial resources is becoming more difficult and represents a great challenge for many States, who are facing strains on their public finances, including for developing countries who are further confronted by high borrowing costs.

The goal of the Abuja workshop is to help address the needs of African States by defining a practical and agreed methodology and approach to aviation infrastructure gap analyses. This could then serve as a key reference for African States seeking to develop regional and national aviation infrastructure programmes and master plans, all fully in line with current forecast traffic growth and the related targets defined in ICAO’s Global plans.

“All investments in aviation infrastructure development and modernization on this continent must be directed to well-managed projects featuring solid business cases and due levels of accountability, transparency and quality assurance,” Dr. Aliu underscored. “Addressing financing challenges facing aviation infrastructure and capacity development requires both ambition and credible means of planning and implementation, and we should aspire to a goal of no constraints of infrastructure capacity, technology and financial resources for aviation development.”



ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu cautioned African States present at the ICAO Gap Analysis Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria today that the realization of better air connectivity in Africa, and the crucial sustainable development it promises, will only be accomplished through the mobilization of sufficient and appropriate investments and through greater levels of compliance with ICAO Regional and Global Planning.

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## Resources for Editors

### About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 192 Member States.

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