

MEDIA STATEMENT

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African regional event on the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol and cross-border transferability of Aircraft

The Aviation Working Group (**AWG**) in association with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (**SACAA**), with the support of the International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (**UNIDROIT**) hosted an important African regional event on the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol (**CTC**) and cross-border transferability of aircraft (**XBT**) on 19 and 20 June 2018 at the Westin Hotel, Cape Town, in South Africa.

The event detailed and assessed the economic and legal benefits of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol, with emphasis on the interpretation, implementation, and compliance with its provisions. The Aviation Working Group encouraged the ratification and proper implementation of the Cape Town Convention, and indicated its willingness to work closely with African countries that are seeking the benefits of the international instrument provided. Attendees to this event included important African civil aviation officials, Africa-wide airlines and leading legal practitioners on the continent.

Having in mind the size of the African market in aviation finance worldwide, the aviation community returned to the city that gave birth to the important and successful Convention on International Mobile Interests. The expertise and consultation provided at the event will bring African countries closer to the proper implementation of, and full and effective compliance with, the Cape Town Convention. African countries, with the guidance of the SACAA, now have direct access to world-renowned institutions that can support all the CTC processes.

In her opening remarks, Ms Poppy Khoza, who heads the South African Civil Aviation Authority, said that an effective global air transport network makes the globe accessible to everyone, and allows for the exchange of foreign supplies, opening up markets and providing tremendous cultural and social opportunities for interaction.

"It comes as no surprise that in 2017 ICAO reported that more than 1,400 scheduled airlines, 26,000 aircraft, 3,900 airports and 173 air navigation services providers provide air transport globally. Furthermore, aviation supports 2.7 trillion US dollars in global economic activity and 62.7 million jobs. According to IATA, aviation in Africa currently supports 72.5 billion US dollars in economic activity and 6.8 million jobs. Over the next 20 years, aviation is forecast to grow at nearly 6% per year, creating significant opportunities," said Khoza.

In addition, several sessions were dedicated to addressing ICAO's new activities on the cross-border transfer of aircraft (**XBT**) and its importance in today's world. The success of the event will be heralded by the close cooperation and developments among African Aviation Authorities, airlines and leading practitioners in the region.

In closing the AWG meeting, after much collaboration among stakeholders including the justice system, regulators and air operators, all agreed that the implementation of this instrument should be done in a practical manner, with due regard to aviation systems.

The meeting also made clear that aviation safety should not be compromised while improving efficiency, harmonisation and increasing capacity within the global civil aviation system to deal with the increasing number of cross-border transfer.

Mr Jeffrey Wool, the Secretary General of the AWG, thanked the SACAA for facilitating the in-depth, fruitful and forward-looking discussions and analysis over the last few days in Cape Town, where the treaty was born.

"We addressed the highest standards applicable to compliance with the Cape Town Convention, providing economic benefits to the African airlines and the region. We also covered the development of enhanced rules and practices relating to cross- border transferability, promoting the efficiency of the air transport system while maintaining the highest safety standards"concluded Wool.

-ENDS-

About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) ("the Act"). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board ("the Board"). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

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