

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF AFCAC AT THE  
THIRTY-NINTH PLENARY (TRIENNIAL) SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL  
AVIATION CONFERENCE ECAC/39**

**President of ECAC**

**President of ICAO**

**Secretary General of ICAO**

**Executive Secretary of ECAC, Ms. Patricia Reverdy,**

**Directors Generals of the European CAA,**

**Members of the ICAO Council,**

**Representatives of International Organizations and States**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to join you today for the opening of the 39th Plenary (Triennial) Session of the European Civil Aviation Conference.

AFCAC greatly appreciated your invitation to attend this Session and provide Statements as partner and is honored to offer some remarks on the cooperation between our two organizations.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank our sister organization ECAC for organizing this event, although the outbreak of coronavirus Pandemic 2019 (COVID-19) has been the foremost preoccupation of almost everyone around the world since it was declared as a Global Pandemic.

The unexpected and dramatic effects of Covid-19 have hit the aviation sector severely.

As you are aware, AFCAC and ECAC share common objectives in the field of civil aviation, including the development and promotion of a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient air transport system, resulting in the provision of air services within and between our member States and other parts of the world.

We are also aware that since the establishment of ECAC, it has continued to make tremendous efforts in enhancing cooperation and coordination among its member States in the field of civil aviation, the evidence of which can be seen in the great strides and the drive for a safe, secure and green air transportation in Europe.

AFCAC is fortunate to be involved with the European Union and ECAC on a wide range of issues translating into deeper cooperation between our two organizations in the field of civil aviation, and look forward to a continuous growth in our partnership.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning the collaboration between the ECAC and AFCAC on the CASE project that is presently benefiting AFCAC and its member States in the area of capacity building programs on aviation security.

Under the CASE project, various joint workshops are being held and specific technical assistance provided to our member States on bilateral levels. Furthermore, AFCAC is also honoured to be a member of the Steering Group of the CASE project, attends and shares its experience during the European Aviation Security Forum.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have the honour to announce with great delight, that 35 AU States have joined the the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) since it was launched in January 2018.

We strongly believe that a single African air transport market, which as you know from your own experience is very important for the sustainable development and integration of the African continent.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to seek the continuing cooperation of ECAC and its member States towards the implementation of the existing MoU to further strengthen and promote friendly relations and mutual understanding.

I wish to assure you that we are ready to promote safe, efficient and sustainable development of African and European civil aviation including issues relating to exchange of experience and training, which will significantly enhance the human resource capacity building opportunities in Africa.

The cooperation between AFCAC and ECAC is key to the delivery of satisfactory safety and security standards as well as air navigation and environmental issues that will in turn foster the development of the aviation sector in both regions.

We therefore look forward to working closely with you all the way to the upcoming ICAO Assembly to ensure our collaborative works including elections on the Council and exchange of Working Papers to mention few .

Before I conclude let me take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the outgoing President and his TEAM and wish all the best to the Incoming President.

I thank you all for your kind attention, and wish you successful deliberations.

On that note, I wish us all productive and very fruitful discussions.

Thank you for your attention.