Executive Summary

This paper presents the establishment of Single African Air Transport Market Single Air Transport Market towards implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision by 2017.

Action: Ministers are invited to:

a) Urge all SADC States to implement the commitment of the summit to 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 before January 2016.

References:

a. Activity road map

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The initiative to establish a Single African Air Transport Market as a flagship of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 is aimed at achieving concrete results in the implementation of the African major African air transport agenda defined with the adoption of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalisation of Air Transport Markets in Africa in 2000. Its main goal was to enable the continent to link all of its
major administrative and commercial capitals with direct transport services in a shorter period (less than a decade) with minimal outlay of in resources compared to ongoing infrastructure programmes of in’ the other transport modes.

1.2. It is therefore critical for African States to do away with unnecessary restrictions that hinder the growth of the air transport industry while opening up to non-African countries. The desires mentioned above prompted the need for all African States to take the bold action and remove the existing policy and regulatory barriers to the growth of this important industry.

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

1.4. Study by IATA on the effects of Liberalising air services in Ten African States indicated that it would result in tremendous results growth in terms of passenger traffic, economic growth and employment.

1.5. Eleven States of Benin, Cape Verde, Congo Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe have subscribed to the Solemn Commitment on establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market.

2. CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISH A SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET AND PROCESS

2.1. The summit 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 and 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;
a) Expressed its commitment to 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;
b) Entrusted 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
c) Encouraged the advocacy to get more States to subscribe to the solemn commitment on establishment of a single Air transport market by June 2015 and Pan Africa Parliament should be involved in the Advocacy campaign;
d) Agreed that All member States should fully implement the implement the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) which will lead to the realisation of the Single Air Transport market and the timeframes to achieve this should be defined

e) All member States should be urged to Single Air Transport market by 2017 as decided by the AU assembly;

2.2. Mitigation should be undertaken by all States to avoid possible demise of some airlines resulting from implementation of YD and establishment of Single market;

2.3. AFCAC shall continue to be the Executing Agency of the project and it should together with AUC build and strengthen human resources capacity also steer implementation of the activity road map attached as appendix 1, on the establishment of the Single Air Transport market;

2.4. AUC Partner’ organisations such as AfDB, ICAO and IATA should be involved in providing necessary technical and financial assistance and support to the Single air transport market project; and a strong funding mechanism for activities implemented

2.5. An evaluation mechanism for implementation of the YD and Single Air Transport market project should be put in place with substantial involvement of the AU member States, and other key stakeholders such as AFRAA, IATA and ICAO;

3. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

3.1. Advocacy should be carried out by the 11 States, to get more States to subscribe to the Solemn Commitment on establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market and the Pan African Parliament (PAP) should be involved in advocacy activities

3.2. All AU Member States are urged to subscribe to the Solemn Commitment to full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market by 2017 as decided by the AU Assembly;
3.3. A multisectoral approach should be pursued to resolve the challenges affecting development of the air transport industry such as visa restrictions, taxes, charges, fuel levies and other non-tariff barriers;

3.4. African Union Commission to enhance and continue its leadership and coordination role to speed-up the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market as decided by the AU Assembly.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

Ministers are invited to:

Urge all SADC States to implement the commitment of the summit to 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 before January 2016.