



# Message from the Minister of Transport, Hon. Prof. Makame M. Mbarawa (MP), on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Chicago Convention

## 7 December 2024



Hon. Prof. Makame M. Mbarawa (MP),  
Minister of Transport,

**Today**, we join the global aviation community in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, commonly known as the Chicago Convention of 1944. This milestone offers us a moment to reflect on the profound impact of aviation in connecting the world and driving economic and social development, as well as the pivotal role this convention has played in shaping the global aviation industry.

Over the past eight decades, the Chicago Convention, through the stewardship of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has been a cornerstone for international collaboration, enhancing aviation safety, fostering connectivity, and promoting sustainable air transport. Its influence has been transformative, enabling nations to thrive and fostering unity across borders.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the growth of the aviation industry by creating a supportive and enabling environment. Key initiatives include the procurement and installation of four radar systems at Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, and Songwe airports, significantly enhancing airspace safety and efficiency while aligning with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. Additionally, the upgrading of critical communication and navigation infrastructure to improve the efficiency and safety of air traffic management systems is well underway. Notably, the ongoing Very High Frequency (VHF) Project, which includes upgrades to VHF radios, Voice Communication and Control Systems (VCCS), and voice recorders, is 83% complete, with full implementation expected by December 2024.

Equally noteworthy is the revamping of our national airline, which has seen its fleet expand from a single Dash 8 Q300 aircraft, with a capacity of 50 passengers in 2016, to 16 aircraft by 2024, including the long-haul Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with a 262-passenger capacity. This growth reflects the government's resolve to elevate the aviation sector and support connectivity within and beyond our borders. Additionally, the

government has embarked on several infrastructure development projects, including constructing new airports and upgrading existing facilities, to enhance connectivity and foster economic growth.

This year, 2024, has also been designated by ICAO as the **Year of Facilitation (YOF)**. ICAO has encouraged its Member States to celebrate this theme in meaningful and impactful ways, sharing their activities with ICAO. The YOF activities aim to stimulate the effective implementation of Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention, which directly addresses the expeditious clearance of passengers and cargo at airports. These efforts are crucial in enhancing the passenger experience and adding value to the air transport chain of services, aligning with the needs and expectations of air travellers.

In line with fostering gender equality in aviation, Tanzania has launched the Women in Aviation Tanzania Chapter as part of its commitment to ICAO's Assembly Resolution A39-30. Adopted in 2016, this resolution emphasizes the need for tangible measures to achieve gender parity in aviation, recognizing that a balanced and inclusive workforce is vital for addressing the sector's rapid expansion and operational demands. The Women in Aviation Chapter aims to inspire and empower women across all facets of the industry, further advancing the ideals of inclusivity and innovation in aviation.

Through the Ministry of Transport and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA), Tanzania continues to uphold its responsibility to regulate and oversee civil aviation safety, security, economic matters, and the provision of air navigation services, all in alignment with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and national laws.

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, Tanzania collaborates closely with regional organizations, including the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (EAC CASSOA), and the Southern African

Development Community Aviation Safety Organization (SASO). In 2024, Tanzania ratified the AFCAC Constitution of 2009, underscoring our commitment to enhancing regional aviation safety and security. The government is also advancing the ratification of significant protocols, such as amendments to Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention to expand ICAO's governing bodies and the Montreal Protocol of 2014 addressing offenses on board aircraft.

Despite these achievements, the aviation sector faces challenges, including a shortage of skilled professionals due to high training costs and the rapid evolution of technology. The COVID-19 pandemic further tested our resilience, disrupting operations and requiring innovative solutions to protect public health and sustain industry recovery. In response, the government established an aviation training fund supported by industry stakeholders to finance pilot and aircraft maintenance training. Moreover, a state-of-the-art Civil Aviation Training Centre is under construction at an estimated cost of USD 34.6 million, designed to train experts in air traffic management, aeronautical information management, aviation security, airport operations, and other critical areas.

While challenges remain, the government remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing the aviation sector to improve livelihoods, strengthen the economy, and ensure global connectivity. By fostering international cooperation, adhering to ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, and prioritizing sustainability, Tanzania continues to position aviation as a key driver of progress and development.

As we commemorate ICAO's 80 years of leadership, I reaffirm our dedication to creating a safe, secure, and sustainable aviation system. Together with all stakeholders, we will embrace the opportunities and navigate the challenges of the future, ensuring that the skies remain a gateway to opportunities for generations to come.

Prof. Makame M. Mbarawa (MP)  
Minister for Transport

*I wish all Tanzanians a joyous*

# Message from the Director General of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA), Mr. Salim Ramadhani Msangi, on the 80th Anniversary of the Chicago Convention

## 7 December 2024



Salim R. Msangi  
Director General, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA)

**Today**, we celebrate a significant milestone in the history of global aviation: the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Chicago Convention. Under the theme **"Safe Skies. Sustainable Future. Together for the Next 80 Years,"** this occasion invites us to reflect on the transformative impact of the Convention, which laid the foundation for modern civil aviation by establishing the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The principles of the Chicago Convention continue to serve as the cornerstone of international aviation cooperation, ensuring safety, sustainability, and growth in the aviation industry.

The United Republic of Tanzania ratified the Convention on International Civil Aviation on 23 April 1962. Since then, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has remained steadfast in upholding the principles of the Chicago Convention. Working in close collaboration with stakeholders, TCAA has advanced safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable air transport. As a union institution under the Ministry of Transport, TCAA oversees civil aviation safety, security, economic regulation, and air navigation services across 14 manned aerodromes and provides air traffic services in the upper airspace of Burundi (above 24,500 feet).

**Reflecting on Achievements:**  
**Enhancing Aviation Safety** - Under the principles of the Chicago Convention, TCAA has prioritized the safety and security of air transport. Robust oversight mechanisms have been implemented to ensure compliance with national laws and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Tanzania's achievements are evident in its performance in ICAO audits. In the 2019 Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme, Tanzania achieved an effective implementation score of 69.04%, surpassing the African average. More recently, in the 2023 Universal Security Audit Programme, Tanzania's score of 88% met and exceeded the Windhoek Targets for African States, showcasing the country's commitment to aviation security.

**Infrastructure Development** - Modern and efficient infrastructure is essential for safe and sustainable aviation. Tanzania has invested heavily in air navigation infrastructure, including the procurement of four radar systems installed at Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro,

Songwe, and Mwanza airports, enhancing surveillance and operational efficiency. The introduction of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) technology further expands surveillance capabilities in the eastern sector of the Dar es Salaam Flight Information Region.

Other projects include the installation of an Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, VHF radios at 12 airports supported by 18 relay stations, and a Voice Communication and Control System (VCCS) to ensure reliable air-to-ground communications. These investments have enhanced the safety, regularity, and efficiency of aircraft operations within Tanzania's airspace.

**Capacity Building** - Human capital is at the core of sustainable aviation. Recognizing the need for skilled professionals, TCAA manages the Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC), certified by ICAO as an Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC). The Centre provides a wide range of aviation courses, including Air Traffic Management, Communication, Navigation and Surveillance, Aeronautical Information Management, and Aviation Security. Plans for a new state-of-the-art training facility demonstrate Tanzania's commitment to addressing future workforce needs.

Additionally, the government has established a training fund supported by stakeholder contributions to finance training for pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers, addressing the high costs associated with aviation training and ensuring a steady supply of skilled personnel.

**Automation of Business Processes** - In line with the theme of a sustainable future, TCAA has embraced automation to enhance operational efficiency. Investments in technology have modernized communication, navigation, and surveillance systems, including DVOR, radar systems, ADS-B, and VHF radios. Oversight processes, such as personnel licensing, airworthiness, flight operations, and aerodrome inspections, have been streamlined, ensuring seamless interoperability and information exchange.

Moreover, automation has transformed financial

management processes, including revenue collection and flight permit issuance, demonstrating TCAA's commitment to transparency and efficiency.

**Embracing Challenges and Opportunities:**  
While we celebrate these accomplishments, we are mindful of the challenges ahead. The aviation sector faces evolving security threats, rapidly advancing technologies, and new entrants such as drones, which require innovative regulatory approaches. Environmental sustainability remains a critical focus, as does the ongoing recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Balancing growth with safety and sustainability demands collaboration, innovation, and a shared vision for the future.

**Looking Ahead:**  
Guided by the theme of "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future," TCAA remains committed to fostering partnerships with ICAO, regional organizations (AFCAC, EAC-CASSOA, SASO), and other stakeholders. We will continue to embrace technology, enhance efficiency, and align with ICAO's long-term aspirational goals for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from international aviation. By integrating sustainability into our policies and practices, we aim to ensure that the aviation sector remains a driver of economic growth and connectivity.

**Gratitude and Commitment:**  
On this historic occasion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, employees, and stakeholders for their dedication and contributions to advancing Tanzania's aviation sector. Together, we will uphold the principles of the Chicago Convention and navigate the challenges of the future, ensuring safe skies and a sustainable future for generations to come.

I wish you all a joyful and meaningful 80th Anniversary of the Chicago Convention.

Salim R. Msangi  
Director General, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA)