THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, HON. PROF. MAKAME MNYAA MBARAWA (MP), ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH ICAO WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE, 16 – 20 NOVEMBER 2026, MONTRÉAL, CANADA



HON. PROF. MAKAME MNYAA MBARAWA (MP)
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

Greetings!

It has been more than thirteen years since the international aviation community convened for the Sixth ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6), held in Montréal in March 2013. Since then, the global aviation industry has undergone profound transformation, creating new opportunities while giving rise to emerging challenges that call for renewed international cooperation, innovation and collective commitment.

Global aviation has expanded significantly during the period between 2012 and 2026. According to ICAO Long Term Forecast and ICAO Annual Report 2024, passengers carried on scheduled flights were 3.0 billion in 2012 and the figure is projected to grow to the tune of 5.1 billion in 2026 which is equivalent to 70% increase. In the case of aircraft movements, the sector is projected to grow by more than 21% from 31.6 million movements recorded in 2012.

Air transport continues to play a vital role in connecting economies, facilitating international trade, promoting tourism and supporting socioeconomic development. At the same time, increasing passenger demand, technological advancement, evolving market dynamics and growing infrastructure financing requirements are reshaping the future of international civil aviation.

The Seventh ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 November 2026 under the theme “Air Transport: Powering Global Connectivity, Economic Development and Resilience in a Dynamic World,” will provide an important platform for Member States and industry stakeholders to deliberate on key policy priorities, investments opportunities and strategic partnerships aimed at advancing suitable air transport development, enhancing global connectivity and strengthening the resilience of the aviation sector.

The United Republic of Tanzania recognizes aviation as a strategic enabler of national development, regional integration, international trade, tourism and investment. In line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, the Government remains committed to developing a modern, competitive, sustainable and integrated transport system capable of supporting long-term socioeconomic transformation.

Recognizing these opportunities, the Government continues to prioritize the modernization and expansion of airport infrastructure, strengthening of national airline capabilities, improvement of air navigation services, enhancement of aviation safety and security oversight, and promotion of international air connectivity.

Our investments in aviation infrastructure, including the development of new airports and the modernization of existing facilities, are intended to strengthen Tanzania's capacity as a strategic aviation gateway, strengthening connectivity between Eastern, Central and Southern Africa and linking the region more effectively with international markets.

The Government equally recognizes that infrastructure development alone is not sufficient to unlock the full economic potential of the aviation sector. Sustainable growth requires an enabling policy and regulatory environment, innovative financing mechanisms, effective public-private partnerships, strengthened institutional capacity and sustained in human capital development.

In this regard, Tanzania remains committed to supporting regional and international initiatives aimed at enhancing air connectivity, including the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), which provides important opportunities for expanding market access, strengthening regional integration and facilitating trade and tourism across the African continent.

As the international aviation community explores new approaches to economic regulation, market access, infrastructure financing, innovation and industry resilience, Tanzania emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the benefits of aviation growth are equitably shared among all States, particularly developing countries. Tanzania firmly believes that the future of international aviation should be anchored in enhanced international cooperation, inclusive economic opportunities, technological innovation, environmental responsibility and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards of aviation safety and security.

As we look towards 2050, our collective ambition should extend beyond accommodating the projected growth in air traffic to ensuring that such growth serves as a catalyst for sustainable economic development, shared prosperity and meaningful opportunities for all nations.

The Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference therefore provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and shape forward-looking policy directions that will guide the future of global air transport. The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to working closely with ICAO, fellow Member States, regional organizations, development partners and industry stakeholders to advance a global air transport system that is more connected, efficient, resilient, sustainable and accessible to all.