THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, DR. JABIRI K. BAKARI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH ICAO WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE, 16–20 NOVEMBER 2026, MONTRÉAL, CANADA



Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
Director General

Greetings!

The Seventh ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 November 2026 in Montréal, Canada, comes at a defining moment for international civil aviation. The aviation industry continues to experience significant transformation driven by increasing air transport demand, technological advancement, evolving market dynamics and the growing need for sustainable infrastructure investment.

The Conference, convened under the theme “Air Transport: Powering Global Connectivity, Economic Development and Resilience in a Dynamic World,” provides an important opportunity for States, regulators and industry stakeholders to reflect on the future of international air transport and strengthen cooperation towards a more efficient, resilient, inclusive and sustainable global aviation system.

For the United Republic of Tanzania, aviation remains a strategic driver of economic development, regional integration, tourism, trade and investment. In line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, the continued development of a safe, secure, efficient and competitive aviation sector is essential to strengthening the country's connectivity and positioning Tanzania as a strategic aviation gateway within Africa and beyond.

Tanzania's aviation sector has demonstrated significant growth over the past thirteen years. According to the Civil Aviation Statistics of Tanzania, 2012 and Civil Aviation Statistics of Tanzania, 2025, , passenger traffic increased by approximately 100% from 4.06 million passengers in 2012 to 8.11 million passengers in 2025. During the same period, aircraft movements increased from 222,430 to 297,285 which is 34% increase; while air cargo volumes grew from 32,411 tonnes to 44,076 tonnes equivalent to 36% increase.

In response to the evolving demands of the aviation sector, TCAA continues to strengthen its regulatory and institutional frameworks. The review and consolidation of civil aviation regulations in 2026, together with legislative reforms aimed at strengthening aviation safety governance, demonstrate the Authority's commitment to maintaining a modern regulatory framework aligned with international standards and emerging industry requirements.

The Authority continues to prioritize aviation safety and security oversight, modernization of air navigation services, digital transformation of regulatory processes and institutional capacity development. TCAA continues to invest in the development of aviation professionals and the strengthening of training capacity, including through the Civil Aviation Training Centre. These efforts are essential to developing the technical and professional expertise required to support an increasingly complex aviation environment.

TCAA equally acknowledges the opportunities presented by progressive air transport liberalization, particularly through the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). Enhanced market access and regional connectivity can contribute significantly to trade, tourism, investment and economic integration. However, the benefits of liberalization must be supported by effective regulatory oversight, adequate institutional capacity and continued adherence to international aviation safety and security standards.

As the international aviation community considers new approaches to economic regulation, infrastructure financing, innovation and industry resilience, TCAA emphasizes the importance of ensuring that regulatory reforms remain practical, inclusive and responsive to the different capacities and development needs of the aviation industry.

The Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference therefore provides an important platform for exchanging experiences, identifying common regulatory challenges and advancing international cooperation towards sustainable aviation development.

TCAA remains committed to working closely with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, ICAO, regional aviation organizations, industry stakeholders and development partners to foster an enabling regulatory environment that supports investment, strengthens connectivity and ensures that aviation continues to contribute meaningfully to national socioeconomic development.

Through effective regulation, innovation and international cooperation, we can build an aviation sector that is safe, secure, resilient, competitive and prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the future.