

ICAO TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON AIR TRANSPORT FACILITATION POLICIES AND  
CAPACITY BUILDING SOLUTIONS: WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, 23-26 JULY 2019  
HILTON HOTEL

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Hon. Minister of Works and Transport

Salutation and protocols

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Namibia and the people of Namibia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Windhoek, Namibia, to the ICAO technical workshop on air transport facilitation policies and capacity building solutions which will run from 23 to 26 July 2019. I am convinced that this workshop will go a long way in assisting Namibia and States within the Eastern and Southern African Region (ESAF) to enhance their understanding of traveler identification and identity management processes, including passenger data exchange systems and that it will provide potential solutions to challenges being faced in the region.

I am informed that the ICAO Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) will spearhead this workshop in proffering potential solutions to technical aspects relating to Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Advance Passenger Information (API) and Traveler

Identification Programme (TRIP). I understand that a number of developing States (especially in the Africa region where only 2 States have implemented API) lack the resources (eg funding and technical expertise) to implement comprehensive MRTD technical specifications, thereby

impacting the global interoperability applications such as the ones needed for an effective API system in order to effectively combat global terrorism.

Namibia is delighted to be contributing to the global fight against terrorism by hosting this very important international workshop which will help the ESAF region to establish and implement comprehensive traveler identification and identity management processes and passenger data exchange systems. This will not only improve air travel, but will inevitably lead to the improvement of national and global economies.

We are also aware that this workshop will go a long way in enhancing air transport facilitation systems in the region. Namibia had some findings relating to advance passenger information (API) systems during the November 2018 USAP-CMA audit. We are confident that this workshop will provide us with solutions to establish and implement an API system in Namibia. The workshop will go a long way in enhancing facilitation in the region. We are aware that enhanced integrity of travel documents serves, in turn, to expedite clearance of people at border control points, strengthen aviation security and also that it serves as an information tool to detect terror suspects and illegal migration, human trafficking and assist in the prevention of crime.

It is only through effective implementation of both security and facilitation standards and recommended practices that we can effectively eradicate aspects of terror in global civil aviation. Namibia and the region at large are ready to play their part in this regard.

May I also take this opportunity to thank ICAO and the ESAF Region HQ for choosing Namibia to host this auspicious event.