

Speech of Mr. Abdennebi Manar, Director General of ACAO,

to the 42th ECAC Ordinary Plenary Session of

Strasbourg from 8th to 10th July 2024

Your Excellencies and Eminencies,

Distinguished Representatives of friendly countries,

Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations,

Honorable Audience,

Peace and blessings of Allah, the Almighty be upon you all.

It is for me a great honor to be among you to take part to the 42th Ordinary Plenary Session of ECAC. I make a point of thanking the Government of France for hosting this great event in the city of Strasbourg, and at the same time, to acknowledge the great efforts made, in collaboration with ECAC Bureau, to make a success of its organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The role of regional organizations in civil aviation is necessary and important in the application of the international civil aviation policy. Thus, cooperation among regional organizations is a necessity for the protection of the vital interests of regional and international civil aviation. We ought to have in our mind the important recommendations from the ICAO symposium on regional organizations held in April 2008 in Montreal

« Regional Organizations in civil aviation are already a positive reality and a clear trend towards more regional governance can be observed (...). Such initiatives are of great benefit to the worldwide aviation community as they can make an important contribution to the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation as a whole. The wider international aviation community also benefits from the development of common rules within Regional Organizations and the greater harmonization of standards and regulations they achieve ».

The Arab Civil Aviation Organization was established as a council in 1965 and finally reconstituted in 1996 and moved to Morocco, with members of the Arab States. This convention has been ratified by the 22 Arab countries. It is a specialized organization working within the framework of the Arab League. Due to its efforts and the work of the Member States, ACAO has been able to make several achievements in air transport, air navigation, aviation safety, Aviation security and environment, and spares no effort to meet the challenges imposed by structural, organizational, technical and economic developments in this field.

I would like to highlight the development of air transport between the European and the Arab region during 2023, with an air connectivity around 1599 city pairs which represents 9% of the total pairs in Europe and 44% in the Arab region. The last year the seats capacity offers exceeded 140 million and which represents 7.3% of the global capacity in Europe

and 29% of the global capacity in the Arab region, and the cargo capacity offered was around 9.6 million tons which represents 9.7% of the global capacity in Europe and 28% of the global capacity in the Arab region

These figures reflect the importance of the air transport market between our two regions, of course it's due to bilateral relations, but I believe that our cooperation is a good framework to support its development in the future. And according to industry forecasts, this market will be doubled by 2040.

Today the air Transport development is facing many global challenges, and as regional civil aviation communities we have to reinforce our cooperation to support our civil aviation authorities in order to overcome these challenges, by providing technical assistance and capacity building. During the 27th ACAO assembly, ECAC and ACAO presidents signed an agreement with several activities in civil aviation security, [safety]_[hb1] and environment, and I would like to express ACAO satisfaction for this agreement implementation. And I seize this opportunity to inform the ECAC and it's member states that we provided more than [83]_[hb2] training, seminars and workshops from that assembly.

Since the beginning of last year, we had the opportunity to coordinate activities of common interest between the four regional organizations ACAO, AFCAC, ECAC and LACAC, this month from 17th to 19th we will

organize a forum on cybersecurity in Casablanca (Morocco), and we are preparing our second air transport forum during last term of this year.

In fact, the four regional organization convened to share their annual activities programs, in order to optimize the participation and to reach the goals of our regions.

In addition, we agreed to implement a coordination mechanism for the preparation of international events such ICAO Assembly and conferences, and we'll begin with the 14th ICAO ANC next September.

Last week, the 28th ACAO General Assembly adopted the program activities for the years 2025 and 2026. We will share theses programs with the other regional organizations, and we hope that ECAC will take part to some of these activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish you every success in the works of this assembly, and thank you for your attention.