

Draft- Luanda Ministerial Statement

We, Ministers responsible for Tourism and Air Transport from UN Tourism and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Member States, meeting in Luanda, Republic of Angola, from 22 to 24 July 2025, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Angola, under the auspices of the [2nd UN Tourism/ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa](#), and in the presence of the UN Tourism Secretary-General, H.E. Zurab Pololikashvili, and the President of the ICAO Council, H.E. Salvatore Sciacchitano:

1. **Acknowledge** the critical role of air connectivity and tourism as twin drivers of economic integration, regional development, and inclusive growth across Africa;
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the effective implementation of the “[Plan of Action for Air Transport and Tourism Development in Africa \(2019-2021\)](#)” and the [Santa Maria, Sal Island Ministerial Declaration](#), adopted in Cabo Verde in 2019, in the framework of the [first UNWTO/ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa, held from 27 to 29 March 2019](#), recognizing the need to accelerate progress, including through post-COVID-19 recovery efforts;
3. **Recognize** that while several States have made progress in advancing regulatory reforms, improving infrastructure, and embracing digital innovation, many structural challenges remain, especially in harmonizing policies, enhancing capacity, facilitating travel, strengthening the conditions for peace and understanding between peoples and financing critical projects;
4. **Commit** to promoting aligned national and regional strategies that strengthen the synergies between tourism and air transport, with a particular focus on air transport liberalization, regulatory frameworks coherent and the integration of sustainable and inclusive practices. Emphasize alignment with key regional initiatives especially through the [African Continental Free Trade Area \(AfCFTA\)](#), [Single African Air Transport Market \(SAATM\)](#), and the [UN Tourism Agenda for Africa: Tourism for Inclusive Growth](#);
5. **Recognize** the specific vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and acknowledge the need for tailored strategies to improve air connectivity, develop sustainable and resilient tourism including support for integrated digital platforms that enhance real-time data sharing between air transport and tourism sectors;
6. **Promote** intra-regional travel and tourism as complementary tool to the strategy of liberalization of market access, by encouraging the adoption of policies involving the reduction or exemption of visa fees, faster processing times and issuing of multiple-entry visa with longer validity, between African countries;
7. **Encourage** greater investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure and digital transformation. Emphasize the importance of regional partnerships for travel facilitation and capacity-building initiatives to empower institutions and workforce development;
8. **Call** for the mobilization of investment both public and private to support infrastructure development and modernization, innovation, and service delivery in air transport and tourism, with a focus on deliverables that enhance regional connectivity and resilience;

9. **Reaffirm** the critical role of the private sector in driving innovation, investment and service delivery in both air transport and tourism and call for the creation of enabling environments and public-private dialogue platforms to facilitate private sector engagement and cross-border investment;
10. **Call upon** development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector to support the acceleration of innovative, inclusive, resilient and sustainable solutions in both tourism and air transport;
11. **Emphasize** the need for stronger coordination between tourism and air transport policies at national, regional, and continental levels. Integrated strategies and collaboration among key stakeholders are essential to improve connectivity and reduce travel costs;
12. **Encourage** prioritizing intra-Africa tourism through dedicated resources and stronger collaboration among tourism ministries, boards and private sector stakeholders to stimulate demand and improve connectivity;
13. **Support** UN Tourism and ICAO's initiatives to promote Africa's positive narratives and strengthen the continent's image as a unified and attractive destination;
14. **Reaffirm** our commitment to maximize tourism-generated revenues and spill-over benefits, with a focus on job creation, gender equality, bridging development gaps, and poverty eradication;
15. **Endorse** the outcomes of the conference as a shared roadmap for African States to advance coordinated implementation efforts and request the continued collaboration of [UN Tourism](#), [ICAO](#), [AFCAC](#), ACI, CANSO and [AFRAA](#) in supporting Member States through technical assistance and policy dialogue;
16. **Underscore** the importance of establishing effective implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress on the commitments made under the Santa Maria Declaration and the current Luanda Statement, and to ensure sustained momentum in advancing air transport and tourism development across the African continent.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Angola for their warm hospitality and outstanding organization of this important ministerial conference.

Adopted at the Second UN Tourism/ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa

Luanda, Republic of Angola, 24 July 2025