

## **ICAO concludes worldwide series of Safety Management Symposiums in Kigali, Rwanda**

It was reported simultaneously from Montréal and Kigali on 22 May that ICAO is continuing its worldwide series of Regional Safety Management Symposiums and Workshops this time in Kigali, Rwanda. These gatherings promote the use of risk-based aviation safety approaches by ICAO Member States in the UN agency's African Regions.

In the words of ICAO Council President Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu: *'We have embarked on this Safety Management Symposium in order to help ensure that your governments are ready and able to optimize the full socio-economic benefits of forecast air traffic growth, and to continue to develop safe, secure, efficient and sustainable aviation systems. No African country or economy should be left behind where this potential for future prosperity is concerned.'*

ICAO's AFI\* Regions comprise the 48 States accredited to its two Regional Offices in Nairobi and Dakar. Together, these countries represent a very complex and diverse aviation environment with varying levels of safety oversight performance.

With this latest series of safety management events, ICAO is helping African and other States globally to progress their transition from reactive to predictive safety analysis and planning. The Symposiums have also served to improve insight and awareness on key safety management concepts among aviation leaders, while exploring new guidance in ICAO's soon-to-be-released 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Safety Management Manual (Doc 9859, which will also feature a companion online information and sharing platform).

ICAO President emphasised: *'It is important to recall that implementing safety management is not just about having a signed document or a manual; it is about the leadership and resources required to move towards a proactive and data-driven approach to managing aviation safety. The responsibility for State Safety Programmes and the delivery of a strategic, national safety vision, must be vested in the highest levels of State leadership.'*

While visiting Kigali, President Aliu had the opportunity (*illustrated*) to present Ambassador Claver Gatete, Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, with a Council President Certificate for the commendable recent progress the State has made in meeting the Effective Implementation requirements measured by the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP).

Dr Aliu was also pleased to conduct bilateral discussions later with Ambassador Gatete, in addition to the Hon Cecilia Abena Dapaah, Minister of Aviation of Ghana, and Mr Ninsao Gnofam, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport of Togo.

During the discussions with Ambassador Gatete, Dr Aliu highlighted the importance of civil aviation connectivity as an enabler of national development, especially in landlocked States like Rwanda. He also emphasized the need to enshrine national aviation planning and investment targets in the State's national development strategy. The President encouraged Rwanda to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation, both in the East Africa Region and beyond, and suggested ICAO's *No Country Left Behind*\*\* initiative could be studied to help Rwanda further improve its aviation safety and security oversight systems and address other air transport challenges being identified.

Dr Aliu went on to highlight the need for appropriate infrastructure to accommodate significant forecast aviation growth locally and regionally, and commended Rwanda for its recent investments to augment the capacities of Rwandair and the Bugesera International Airport. He remarked that these will help support the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and air connectivity more generally on the African continent, as will Rwanda's commitment to champion the removal of visa requirements that support the African free trade area and freedom of persons more generally in Africa.

The President of the ICAO Council was accompanied during his mission in Rwanda by the ICAO Council Member for Kenya, Ms Mercy Awori, Chairpersons of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plans for Aviation Safety and Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI Plan and AFI SECFAL Plan), Messrs. Moussa Halidou and Kabbs Twijuke respectively, the Deputy Director of Aviation Safety in ICAO's Air Navigation Bureau, Mr. Catalin Radu, and by ICAO's Regional Directors for Africa, Messrs. Barry Kashambo and Mam Sait Jallow respectively.

\*Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa.

\*\*See: <https://www.icao.int/about-icao/NCLB/Pages/default.aspx>

Picture caption

*ICAO continued its worldwide series of Regional Safety Management Symposiums and Workshops in Kigali, Rwanda today, promoting the use of risk-based aviation safety approaches by the 48 States accredited to its two African Regional Offices in Nairobi and Dakar. While visiting Kigali, President Aliu*

*(above, left) had the opportunity to present Ambassador Claver Gatete (right), Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, with a Council President Certificate of Recognition for the commendable recent progress Rwanda has made in meeting the Effective Implementation requirements measured by the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP).*