



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & THE ECONOMY**

**FEATURE ADDRESS OF
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE LARRY HOWAI
MINISTER OF FINANCE & THE ECONOMY**

**OPENING OF THE 5TH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CIVIL
AVIATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AND
AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES OF ICAO
HYATT REGENCY, PORT OF SPAIN**

28 April 2014

Salutations

Fellow Cabinet Colleagues,

His Excellency Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu
President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation
Organization (ICAO)

Mr Kimchand Rampaul,
Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority,

Mr Ramesh Lutchmedial,
Director General of Civil Aviation, Trinidad and Tobago,

Ms Loretta Martin
Regional Director ICAO NACC (*pronounced NAC*) Region,

Mr Michael Whitaker,
Deputy Administrator for the United States Federal Aviation
Administration,

Other Directors of Civil Aviation,

Representatives of other agencies,

Distinguished participants,

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to address such a distinguished group of global leaders in civil aviation regulation at this Fifth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation.

Today is indeed a historic day as it is the first time that we are hosting here, in Trinidad & Tobago a meeting of all the Directors of Civil Aviation of the NACC Region of the ICAO with 21 Contracting states participating.

Ladies and Gentlemen, civil aviation is one of the greatest contributors to the advancement of modern day society and is the preferred mode of transportation

in most parts of the world. Let us look at a few statistics:

According to the latest report from the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)

- Aviations' s Global economic impact is estimated at US\$2.2 trillion, equivalent to 3.5% of the World Gross Domestic Product;
- Over 1500 airlines operate a fleet of over approximately 24,000 aircraft which serve some 3846 airports throughout the world;
- Aviation generates a total of over 56.6 million jobs directly and indirectly;

- Aviation transports approximately 2.6 billion passengers annually and 51% of international tourist travel by air; and
- The total value of goods transported by air represents 35% of international trade.

Since the first jet liner flew in 1949, aviation has grown more than seventy fold. This growth is unmatched by any other major form of transport.

Civil aviation has had a dynamic influence on the global economy causing the rapid movement of millions of people and billions of dollars worth of goods around the globe. It facilitates world trade, the development of

tourism and greater connectivity between people and businesses.

Aviation also makes a contribution to the improvement of people's lives by contributing to sustainable development, supporting remote communities and widening consumer choice.

There are all reasons that underline the importance of a renewed commitment and political will on the part of governments to Civil Aviation. But, there are a number of factors to be addressed if we are to provide the quality of service required effectively:

- a) Firstly there is the need for increased attention to matters of safety.

b) Secondly, there is the increasing globalization of civil aviation itself, which requires effective management of foreign and multi-national ownership and alliances of airlines, joint marketing arrangements, multinational approaches to both technical and economic regulations, along with increasing interaction between domestic and international civil aircraft operations.

c) There is an increasing demand for flights and concomitantly for the infrastructure and services that such demand generates.

d) Finally ,there are increasingly intense social, economic, political, environmental and other pressures on civil aviation policy, particularly at the national and regional levels. These pressures can also lead to conflicts such as those between safety and environmental obligations. In meeting environmental obligations, those relating to safety should not be compromised.

Responding to these pressures as well as to the increased complexity and cost of aviation systems places significant financial constraints on civil aviation authorities throughout the world including those in the CARICOM region. This underscores the need for States in regional blocs to cooperate with each other in meeting their obligations under the convention.

The 38th Assembly of the ICAO held in late 2013 approved the new Global Air Navigation Plan and the Global Aviation Safety Plan. These plans provide the road map for enhancing aviation safety and for the implementation of a fully-harmonized global air navigation system built on modern performance-based procedures and technologies that will allow for increased capacity in the skies due to the growing world aircraft fleet.

Article 37 of the Chicago Convention specifies that States must collaborate in securing the highest practical degree of uniformity in regulations, standards, procedures and organization in relation to

aircraft, personnel, airways and auxiliary services in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve air navigation.

I am advised that the aim of this NACC DCA's meeting is to review the decisions of the 38th Assembly of ICAO as it affects aviation requirements in the NACC Region. The meeting will provide the forum for the participating States to collaboratively discuss and exchange relevant information to achieve harmonized regional aviation development. The discussions will take into account the interface among the sub-regional groups such as the Eastern Caribbean Group of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member.

The meeting is especially important as proposed performance-based metrics will be decided for air navigation, safety, security and the environment in line with ICAO Strategic Objectives, the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).

These metrics and targets will guide the achievement of the regional priorities for the upcoming years. The Regions' Directors of Civil Aviation will affirm their commitment to the targets for safety, security and air navigation by signing a commitment document which will be known as the Port-of-Spain Declaration

For us in Trinidad and Tobago, aviation plays a key

pivotal role in our current economic thrust providing essential transportation linkages between Trinidad and Tobago, and our Caribbean and Caricom community of nations and other global industrial and commercial centers linked to our extensive offshore oil and gas operations.

In this regard, I reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to work together with the other Contracting States and industry stakeholders in ensuring that collectively, we achieve the highest levels of safety, security and efficiency in our civil aviation.

Closing

In closing, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I want to extend a warm welcome to all delegates, especially those who are visiting our twin island State for the first time. I hope that you enjoy our people's warmth and hospitality during your stay.

I wish you all success in your deliberations over the next three days. Thank You.