



CLAC/GEPEJTA/53-NE/02

25/04/23

**QUINGUAGÉSIMA TERCERA REUNIÓN DEL GRUPO DE EXPERTOS EN ASUNTOS POLÍTICOS,  
ECONÓMICOS Y JURÍDICOS DEL TRANSPORTE AÉREO  
(GEPEJTA/53)**

(San Salvador, El Salvador, 27 y 28 de abril de 2023)

**Cuestión 3 del**

**Orden del Día:** Transporte y política Aérea

Acuerdo multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre los Estados Miembros CLAC y CAFAC.

(Nota de estudio presentada por la Secretaría)

**Antecedentes**

1. En el Comité Ejecutivo celebrado en Brasilia en agosto de 2014, la delegación de Brasil presentó la Nota de estudio CLAC/CE/86-NE/18, relacionada con la propuesta de un texto para comenzar negociaciones de un Acuerdo Multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre los estados Miembros de la Comisión Latinoamericana de Aviación Civil (CLAC) y de la Comisión Africana de Aviación Civil (CAFAC).
2. En la reunión mencionada el Comité Ejecutivo acogió favorablemente la propuesta de Brasil y encargó a la Secretaría tener preparado el documento, para entregar al Presidente de la CAFAC, con motivo de la XXI Asamblea Ordinaria de la CLAC (Antigua, Guatemala, noviembre de 2014). Sin embargo, en la Asamblea de Guatemala no fue posible para la Secretaría encontrar un espacio para entregar el texto acordado, quedando este asunto pendiente.
3. En el contexto de la XI Reunión de la Comunidad de Autoridades de Aviación Civil Lusoparlantes (CAACL) (Salvador de Bahía, 12 de marzo de 2019) el tema fue planteado nuevamente y se acordó que la Secretaria de la CLAC retomaría la propuesta de un Acuerdo multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre los Estados Miembros de la CLAC y de la CAFAC.
4. En el escenario de la pandemia del COVID/19 se ralentizaron todas las iniciativas que no estuvieran directamente relacionadas con la superación de la crisis. Con todo, en el XCVI Comité Ejecutivo celebrado virtualmente el 28 de octubre de 2021, la Secretaría presentó la Nota CLAC/CE/96-NE/02, Acuerdo multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre los Estados Miembros de la Comisión

Latinoamericana de Aviación Civil (CLAC) y de la Comisión Africana de Aviación Civil (CAFAC), invitando al Comité Ejecutivo a retomar esta iniciativa. En dicha reunión un Estado manifestó su opinión en orden a mantener este asunto en el ámbito bilateral y otro Estado solicitó tiempo para realizar consultas, se concluyó que la Secretaría esperaba las respuestas a este respecto.

5. Después de realizada la 41 Asamblea de OACI y la reunión de evaluación respectiva por parte de la CLAC, se realizó el GEPEJTA/52 (30 de noviembre de 2022) y se abordó en la cuestión 2 del orden del día: "Presentación del Plan operativo por cada Macrotarea, concordado con los lineamientos de la 41 Asamblea ordinaria de la OACI", la propuesta de la delegación de Brasil, punto focal de la Macrotarea de Transporte y Política Aérea, referida a agregar la tarea sobre el Acuerdo Multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre los países miembros de la CLAC y la Comisión Africana de Aviación Civil en un contexto post pandemia. El GEPEJTA concluyó sin objeciones y específicamente en esta materia: "a) Que la Secretaría envíe la comunicación a la CAFAC para retomar y continuar con la tarea de un Multilateral de Cielos Abiertos entre CAFAC y CLAC, en coordinación con Brasil".

### **Desarrollo**

6. Dada la proximidad de la reunión del ICAN/2022 (5 a 9 de diciembre de 2022) que se celebró en Nigeria, la Secretaría concordó con Brasil que se contacte personalmente con la Secretaria de CAFAC, para proponer de manera informal iniciar conversaciones. Por su parte la Secretaría mantuvo conversaciones (vía WhatsApp y por email) en el mismo sentido, enviado el texto a negociar de manera informal.

7. Continuando con las tratativas, el 7 de febrero de 2023 durante la reunión entre las comisiones hermanas (ACAO, CAFAC, CEAC, CLAC) celebrada en París; el Presidente y la Secretaria de la CAFAC concordaron con el Presidente y Secretario de la CLAC, que se envíe un texto de manera oficial para iniciar conversaciones sobre un acuerdo de cielos abiertos entre algunos países de ambas regiones.

8. La Secretaría de la CLAC, el 15 de febrero de 2023, envió a nombre de su Presidente, el texto del acuerdo (ADJUNTO). Cabe consignar que aún la Secretaría no recibe una respuesta oficial por parte de la CAFAC.

### **Conclusión.**

9. Un acuerdo de cielos abiertos entre los países que deseen adherirse de ambas regiones es una aspiración de la Comisión que data del año 2014, que no ha podido ser ejecutado por diferentes razones. En un ambiente post-pandemia y dada la necesidad de estrechar lazos con nuestros hermanos y hermanas africanas, este acuerdo toma una especial relevancia.

### **Medidas propuestas**

10. Se invita al GEPEJTA a:

- a) tomar nota de la información presentada, intercambiar criterios y expresar su posición al respecto, si lo estimara conveniente;
- b) crear un grupo de negociación coordinado por Brasil, que estará disponible para las negociaciones con CAFAC, cuando sea oportuno.



COMISIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE AVIACIÓN CIVIL · COMISSÃO LATINO-AMERICANA DE AVIAÇÃO CIVIL · LATIN AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION

LACAC 2.4.2.2/431

14 February 2023

Mr.  
Silas Udahemuka  
President  
African Civil Aviation Commission

Subject: Multilateral Open Skies Agreement AFCAC-LACAC Draft

Dear Mr. Udahemuka,

The Latin American Civil Aviation Commission presents its compliments to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).

In reference to the continuous conversation that has been held between our organizations regarding an agreement between Africa and Latin America that could be beneficial for many countries in both continents, I am sharing with you an official draft of the Multilateral Open Skies Agreement that we have prepared for your consideration so that it can be discussed and perfected.

Additionally, I wanted to inform you that there will be a group of experts composed by LACAC member States to overview and discuss the text. In this sense, I would appreciate it if you could designate specialists from your organization who can hold virtual meetings with specialists from LACAC, to study and improve the aforementioned draft.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Best Regards,

Gaetano Battagliese  
President of LACAC

**MULTILATERAL OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT FOR MEMBER STATES  
OF THE LATIN AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION  
AND OF THE AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION**

**Preamble**

The undersigned Governments, hereinafter called “the States Parties” or “the Parties”;

BEING PARTIES to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, opened for signature in Chicago on 7 December 1944;

CONSIDERING that the conclusion of a multilateral agreement on international air transport will promote cooperation and the development of Latin American and African countries;

WISHING to facilitate the expansion of opportunities for international air services of the countries in both Regions;

CONVINCED of the advisability of optimizing aeronautical resources and the infrastructure of both Regions;

AWARE of the need to develop the aeronautical industry and to take into account the rights and interests of users;

EXPRESSING their desire to coordinate their aeronautical policies in their mutual relations and with third countries and integration systems; and

ASSERTING their commitment to the safety of aircraft, passengers, infrastructure and third parties, as well as to facilitation and environment protection;

HAVE AGREED the following:

**Article 1  
Definitions**

For purposes of this Agreement:

- “Aeronautical Authority” is the government entity designated in each of the States Parties to regulate international air transport or its successor organization(s);
- “Agreement” means this Agreement, any annexes to it, and the corresponding amendments;
- “Air service”, “international air service”, “airline” and “non-traffic stop” have the meaning assigned in Article 96 of the Convention; and
- “Capacity” is the number of services provided under the Agreement, usually measured by the number of frequencies or tonnes of cargo offered in a market on a weekly basis or during any other given period;
- “Convention” designates the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature in

Chicago on 7 December 1944, including the Annexes adopted under Article 90 of said Convention, and the amendments to the Annexes or the Convention under Articles 90 and 94, to the extent the Annexes and amendments are applicable to the States Parties;

- “Designated airline” means an airline that has been designated and authorized in accordance with Article 3 of this Agreement;
- “Tariffs” means the price to be paid for the transport of passengers, baggage and cargo, and the conditions under which such price applies, including the prices and commissions of agencies and other ancillary services;
- “Territory”, in relation to a State, designates the land areas and adjacent territorial waters and the airspace above them, under the sovereignty of said State;
- “AFCAC” designates the African Civil Aviation Commission; and
- “LACAC” designates the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission.

## **Article 2**

### **Granting of Rights**

1. Each Party grants the other Parties the following rights for the provision of international air transport services by the airlines of the other Parties:
  - The right to fly across its territory without landing;
  - The right to make non-traffic stops in its territory;
  - The right to provide scheduled and non-scheduled international passenger, cargo and mail air transport services, either separately or in combination, from points behind the territory of the Party designating the airline, across the territory of that Party and intermediate points, to any point in the territory of the Party that has granted the right and beyond, with full third, fourth, fifth, and sixth freedom traffic rights, with the number of frequencies and the flight equipment they deem appropriate;
  - All other rights specified in this Agreement.
2. Each designated airline may, in any or all of its flights and at its own discretion:
  - Operate flights in either or both directions;
  - Combine different flight numbers in one aircraft operation;
  - Operate services to previous, intermediate and subsequent points, and points in the territory of the Parties along the routes, in any combination or in any order;
  - Exclude stops at any point or points;
  - Transfer traffic from any of its aircraft to any of its other aircraft at any point along the routes;
  - Operate services to and from points located behind any point in its territory, with or without change of aircraft or flight number, and offer and advertise such services to the public as direct services, in all cases taking the necessary steps to ensure that consumers are fully informed;
  - Make a stop at any point inside or outside the territory of any of the Parties;
  - Carry in-transit traffic through the territory of any of the other Parties; and
  - Combine traffic on the same aircraft, regardless of its point of origin; without any geographical or direction restrictions and without losing any right to carry traffic granted

under this Agreement.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article shall apply subject to the requirements that the transportation is part of a service that serves a point in the territory of the Member State that designates the airline.

### **Article 3**

#### **Designation and Authorization**

1. Each Party shall have the right to designate as many airlines as it sees fit to operate the agreed services in accordance with this Agreement and to withdraw or modify such designations. The notifications will be communicated in writing to the other Parties through diplomatic channels and to the Depository, as defined in Article 35 of this Agreement.
2. Upon receiving the corresponding designation and the request from the designated airline, in the manner and in accordance with the prescribed requirements for the operation approval, each Party will grant the appropriate operation permit as promptly as possible, provided:
  - The airline is incorporated in the territory of a State Party that designates it and it is headquartered in the territory of that Party.
  - The airline is under the effective regulatory control of the State Party that designates it;
  - The Party designating the airline complies with the provisions set forth in Article 8 (Safety) and Article 9 (Security); and
  - The designated airline is qualified to meet all other conditions established by law and in the regulations normally applied to the operation of international air transport services by the Party that reviews the request(s).
3. Upon receiving the operation approval mentioned in paragraph 2, a designated airline may begin operation of the agreed services for which it has been designated, provided it complies with the applicable provisions of this Agreement and with the standards required by the Party that has granted the authorization.

### **Article 4**

#### **Refusal, Revocation and Limitation of Authorization**

1. The aeronautical authorities of each Party will have the right to refuse to grant the authorizations referred to in Article 3 (Designation and Authorization) of this Agreement with respect to an airline designated by any of the other Parties, and to revoke and suspend said authorizations, or to impose temporary or permanent conditions on them:
  - In case they consider that the airline has not been incorporated in the territory of the Party designating the airline and is not headquartered in the territory of that Party;
  - In case they consider that the airline is not under effective regulatory control of the State Party designating it;
  - In case the Party designating the airline does not comply with the provisions of Article 8 on Safety and Article 9 on Security, and
  - In case such designated airline is not qualified to meet the other requirements

prescribed based on the laws and regulations normally applied to the operation of international air transport services by the Party receiving the designation.

2. Unless immediate measures are required to prevent the violation of the aforementioned laws and regulations or unless safety or security requires measures according to the provisions of Article 8 on Safety or Article 9 on Security, the rights listed in paragraph 1 of this Article will be exercised only after consultation by the aeronautical authorities in accordance with Article 31 (Consultations) of this Agreement.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Law Enforcement**

The laws and regulations of any of the Parties that govern the entry to, and exit from, its territory of aircraft used in international air services, or that govern the operation and navigation of such aircraft while in their territory, will be applicable to the aircraft of the designated airlines of the other Parties.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Direct Transit**

Passengers, baggage, cargo and mail in direct transit will be subject only to a simplified inspection. Baggage and cargo in direct transit will be exempt from customs duties and other similar rights, except for reasons of aviation security, narcotics control, prevention of illegal entry or in special circumstances.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Recognition of Certificates**

1. The certificates of airworthiness, certificates of aptitude and licenses issued or validated by any of the Parties and which are valid will be recognized as valid by the other Parties for the operation of the agreed services, provided the conditions under which such certificates and licenses were issued or validated are equal to or higher than the minimum standards established pursuant to the Convention.
2. In case the privileges or conditions of licenses and certificates mentioned in paragraph 1 above, issued by the aeronautical authorities of any of the Parties to an individual or designated airline, or in respect of an aircraft used in the operation of the agreed services, allow for a deviation from the minimum standards established pursuant to the Convention and this deviation has been notified to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the other Parties may request consultations between the aeronautical authorities to clarify the practice in question.
3. However, each Party reserves the right not to recognize, with respect to flights over its territory or landing in the same, the certificates of aptitude and the licenses granted to its nationals by the other Parties.



## **Article 8**

### **Safety**

1. Each party may at any time request consultations on the safety standards applied by other Parties on aspects related to aeronautical facilities, flight crews, aircraft and aircraft operations. Said consultations will be held within thirty (30) days of submitting the request.
2. If, following such consultations any of the Parties concludes that the other Party does not maintain and manage effectively, with respect to the aspects mentioned in paragraph 1, safety standards that are in compliance with the current standards pursuant to the Convention, said Party will be informed of such conclusions and the measures deemed necessary to comply with ICAO standards. The other Party shall then take appropriate corrective action within an agreed timeframe.
3. In accordance with Article 16 of the Convention, it is further agreed that any aircraft operated by or on behalf of an airline of any of the Parties for the provision of services to or from the territory of other Parties, may, when in the territory of any of the latter, be subject to inspection by the authorized representatives of that Party, provided this does not cause undue delay to the operation of the aircraft. Notwithstanding the obligations mentioned in Article 33 of the Chicago Agreement, the purpose of this inspection is to check the validity of the relevant aircraft documentation, the licenses of its crew, and that the aircraft equipment and the condition of the aircraft comply with the current standards established in the Convention.
4. When it is absolutely necessary to take urgent action to ensure the safety of the operations of an airline, each Party reserves the right to immediately suspend or modify the operation permit of one or more airlines of any of the other Parties.
5. Any action taken by any of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 4 above will be discontinued once the reasons that gave rise to such action cease to exist.
6. If it is determined that any of the Parties is still not meeting the ICAO standards once the agreed period referred to in paragraph 2 above has expired, this fact shall be notified to the Secretary General of ICAO, who will also be notified of the satisfactory resolution of said situation.

## **Article 9**

### **Security**

1. In accordance with the rights and obligations under international law, the Parties ratify that their mutual obligation to protect the security of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference is an integral part of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of their rights and obligations under international law, the Parties will act particularly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Offences and Certain Other acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed in Tokyo on 14 September, 1963, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed in The Hague on 16 December, 1970, and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts

against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal on 23 September, 1971, its supplementary Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal on 24 February, 1988, as well as any other convention or protocol on civil aviation security to which the Parties have adhered.

2. The Parties will provide each other with all necessary assistance requested to prevent acts of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft and other unlawful acts against the security of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports and air navigation facilities, and any other threat to the security of civil aviation.
3. The Parties will act, in their mutual relations, in accordance with the provisions on security established by ICAO and which are designated as Annexes to the Convention; they will require that operators of aircraft under their registry or operators who are headquartered or have their permanent residence in their territory, and operators of airports located in their territory, act in accordance with such provisions on security. Each Party will notify the other Parties of any difference between its national regulations and practices and the security standards contained in the Annexes. Any of the Parties may at any time request immediate consultations with other Parties on such differences.
4. Each Party agrees that aircraft operators may be required to comply with the security provisions mentioned in paragraph 3) above, for the entry to, exit from, or stay in their territory. Each Party will ensure that appropriate measures to protect aircraft and to inspect passengers, crew, personal belongings, baggage, cargo and aircraft supplies are effectively applied in its territory before and during boarding or loading. Each Party will also consider favourably any request of any other Party to take reasonable special security measures to address a particular threat.
5. When an incident or threat of an incident of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft or other unlawful act against the security of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports or air navigation facilities occurs, the Parties will assist each other by facilitating communications and other appropriate measures intended to terminate such incident or threat quickly and safely.
6. Each Party may request that its aeronautical authorities be allowed to assess the security measures that aircraft operators apply, or intend to apply, in the territory of another Party in respect of flights arriving from, or departing to, the territory of the first Party. Administrative arrangements for conducting such assessments will be agreed between the aeronautical authorities and implemented without delay to ensure that assessments are conducted promptly.
7. When any of the Parties has reasonable grounds to believe that another Party has deviated from the provisions of this Article, that Party may request consultations. Such consultations will begin within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the request of any of the Parties. If a satisfactory agreement is not reached within fifteen (15) days from the start of consultations, this will be grounds to refuse, revoke or suspend the approval of the airline or airlines designated by another Party or to impose conditions on them. When warranted by an emergency or for the purpose of preventing further infringements of the provisions of this Article, the first Party may adopt provisional

measures at any time.

#### **Article 10** **Security of Travel Documents**

1. Each Party agrees to take measures to ensure the security of its passports and other travel documents.
2. In this respect, each Party agrees to establish controls over the legitimate creation, issuance, verification and use of passports and other travel documents and identity documents issued by it or on its behalf.
3. Each Party also agrees to establish or improve the procedures to ensure that travel documents issued by it are of such quality that they will not be easily misused and, furthermore, will not be easily tampered with, cloned or unduly issued.
4. In order to meet the aforementioned objectives, each Party will issue its passports and other travel documents in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the ICAO document in force on this matter.
5. Each Party further agrees to exchange operational information on tampered or cloned travel documents and to cooperate with the other Parties to strengthen the protection against travel document fraud, including tampering or cloning, the use of tampered or cloned travel documents, the use of valid travel documents by impostors, the misuse of genuine travel documents by their right holders with the purpose of committing a crime, the use of expired or revoked travel documents and the use of travel documents obtained in a fraudulent manner.

#### **Article 11** **Inadmissible and Improperly Documented Passengers and Deportees**

1. The Parties agree to establish effective border controls.
2. In this regard, each Party agrees to apply the standards and recommended practices of Annex 9 (Facilitation) to the Convention, on inadmissible and improperly documented passengers and deportees, in order to strengthen cooperation to fight illegal migration.

#### **Article 12** **User Charges**

1. None of the Parties will impose or permit the imposition on the designated airlines of the other Parties, of charges or rights that are greater than those it imposes on its own airlines operating similar international services.
2. User charges imposed by the appropriate bodies of each Party to the airlines of the other Parties will be fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory.

3. Each Party will encourage consultations between the appropriate bodies in its territory and the airlines that use its facilities and will encourage both of them to exchange the information required to permit a thorough analysis to determine whether charges are reasonable.

### **Article 13**

#### **Customs Duties**

1. Each Party, based on reciprocity, will exempt one or more designated airlines of another Party, to the greatest extent possible under its national laws, from import restrictions, customs duties, indirect taxes, inspection fees and other domestic fees and charges that are not based on the cost of services provided on arrival, levied on, or affecting aircraft, fuel, lubricating oils, non-durable technical supplies and parts, including engines, standard aircraft equipment, onboard supplies and other products such as ticket booking and printed air waybills, and any printed material with the company logo and regular advertising material distributed without charge by said designated airline for the operation or servicing of aircraft of the airline designated by another Party, and which operates the agreed services.
2. The exemptions granted in this Article will apply to the products listed in paragraph 1:
  - Which are introduced into the territory of a Party by or on behalf of the designated airlines of another Party;
  - Which are on board the designated airlines of one Party on arrival in the territory of another Party or when leaving it;
  - Carried on board aircraft of the designated airlines of one Party into the territory of another Party and that are intended for use in the operation of the agreed services; or
  - Which are used or consumed, in whole or in part, within the territory of the Party granting the exemption, provided their ownership is not transferred within the territory of that Party.
3. The standard aircraft equipment, as well as materials and supplies normally carried on board the aircraft of a designated airline of any of the Parties, can only be unloaded in the territory of another Party with the approval of the customs authorities of said territory. In that case, they may be kept under the surveillance of said authorities until they are re-exported, or other action is taken in accordance with customs regulations.

### **Article 14**

#### **Taxes**

1. Profit resulting from the operation of aircraft of a designated airline in international air services, as well as the goods and services supplied thereto, will be taxed in accordance with the laws of each Party.
2. When there is a special agreement between the Parties to avoid double taxation on income and capital, the provisions contained therein will prevail.

**Article 15**  
**Non-Discrimination**

Each designated airline will receive non-discriminatory treatment in an environment of healthy and fair competition for the operation of routes under this Agreement, within the framework of the competition laws of the Parties.

**Article 16**  
**Capacity**

1. Each Party will allow each designated airline of another Party to determine the frequency and capacity of international air transport services it offers, based on commercial market considerations.
2. None of the Parties will unilaterally limit the volume of traffic, the frequency or regularity of the service, or the types of aircraft used by the designated airlines of any of the other Parties, except when necessary for customs, technical, operational, or environmental reasons under uniform conditions consistent with Article 15 of the Convention.
3. None of the Parties will impose on the designated airlines of another Party a preference fee, a balance ratio, non-objection fees, or any other requirement concerning capacity, frequency or traffic that is inconsistent with the purpose of this Agreement.
4. In order to enforce the uniform conditions foreseen in paragraph 2) of this Article, none of the Parties will require the airlines of another Party to submit schedules, non-scheduled service programmers, or operation plans for approval, unless so required by the internal rules and on a non-discriminatory basis. If a Party requires the submission of such data, it will reduce, inasmuch as possible, the submission requirements and procedures applicable to the airlines designated by the other Party.

**Article 17**  
**Tariffs**

Each designated airline will set its air transport tariffs based on commercial market considerations, with no need to submit such tariffs for approval. The intervention of the States Parties will be limited to:

- Preventing discriminatory practices or tariffs;
- Protecting consumers from excessively high or restrictive tariffs resulting from abuse of a dominant position;
- Protecting airlines from artificially low tariffs resulting from a direct or indirect government subsidy; and
- Requiring, if deemed useful, that the rates to be charged by airlines of the other Parties to or from their territory, be registered with their aeronautical authorities.

**Article 18**  
**Competition Laws**

1. The Parties will exchange information about their competition laws, policies and practices and

their amendments, and about any specific objectives that they pursue, and which may affect the operation of air transport services under this Agreement. They will also identify the authorities responsible for their enforcement.

2. To the extent permitted by their own laws and regulations, the Parties will provide assistance to the airlines of the other Parties, indicating whether a given practice that an airline intends to apply is compatible with its competition laws, policies and practices.
3. The Parties will notify each other if they believe there may be incompatibility between the application of their competition laws, policies and practices and the implementation of this Agreement. The consultation procedure foreseen in this Agreement will be used, if so requested by any of the Parties, to determine whether such conflict exists and to seek ways to resolve it or minimize it.
4. The Parties will notify each other if they intend to sue the airline(s) of another Party, or about the initiation of any legal action between individuals under their competition laws.
5. The Parties will try to reach an agreement during the consultations, taking due account of the relevant interests of each Party.
6. If no agreement is reached, each Party, when applying its competition laws, policies and practices, will take into account the views expressed by the other Party and international courtesy and restraint.
7. The Party under whose competition laws a legal action between individuals has been initiated will provide the other Parties access to the relevant judicial body and, if appropriate, will provide information to said body. Such information may include its own interests in terms of foreign affairs, the interests of the other Party that has been notified and, if possible, the results of any consultation with the other Parties in connection with such action.
8. The Parties, to the extent permitted by their laws, national policies and international obligations, will authorise their airlines and nationals to disclose information about actions concerning competition laws to the appropriate authorities of any of the Parties, provided such cooperation or disclosure is not contrary to their most important national interests.

#### **Article 19**

#### **Currency Conversion and Transfer of Profits**

Each Party, in accordance with its laws, will allow the designated airlines of another Party, upon request, to convert and transfer abroad all local revenues from the sale of air transport services and other directly related activities, in excess of the amounts spent locally, allowing for their prompt conversion and transfer without restrictions or discrimination, at the exchange rate applicable on the date of the conversion and transfer request.

**Article 20**  
**Sale and Marketing of Air Transport Services**

Each Party shall grant to the designated airlines of another Party the right to sell and market, in its territory, international air transport services, either directly or through agents or other intermediaries, at the discretion of the airline, including the right to establish offices in the network or outside of it.

**Article 21**  
**Non-National Personnel and Access to Local Services**

Each Party will allow the designated airlines of another Party:

- To bring to its territory and maintain non-national employees to perform managerial, commercial, technical, operational and other specialized functions required for the provision of air transport services in compliance with the applicable entry, residence and employment laws and regulations of the State Party that receives them; and
- To use the services and staff of any organization, company or airline working in its territory and that is authorized to provide such services, subject to the laws and regulations of the Party where these services are rendered.

**Article 22**  
**Change of Gauge**

A designated airline that conducts international air transport operations may at any point of any segment of the agreed routes, change, without limitation, the type or number of aircraft used, provided that the transport beyond such point is a continuation of a transport from the territory of the Party that designated the airline and, in the return direction, the transport to the territory of the designating Party is a continuation of a transport from beyond that point.

**Article 23**  
**Ground Handling**

1. Subject to the applicable safety provisions, including ICAO standards and recommended practices (SARPs) contained in Annex 6, each Party, subject to its national laws and regulations, will allow the designated airlines of the other Parties, at the discretion of each airline, to:
  - Carry out their own ground handling;
  - Provide services to one or more airlines;
  - Partner with others to create a service-providing entity; and
  - Choose from competing service providers.
2. When the internal regulations of one Party limit or prevent the exercise of the aforementioned rights, each designated airline shall be treated in a non-discriminatory manner with respect to the ground assistance services offered by a duly authorized supplier(s).

**Article 24**  
**Code Sharing and Cooperation Arrangements**

1. In order to operate or maintain the authorized services on the agreed routes, any designated airline of any of the Parties may enter into marketing arrangements such as joint operations, capacity reservation, or code-sharing agreements with:
  - One or several airlines of any of the Parties;
  - One or several airlines of a third country; and
  - A provider of surface transport of any country.

provided all airlines in such arrangements 1) have the necessary authorization and 2) meet the requirements normally applied to such arrangements. Code-share arrangements may be subject to prior approval of the appropriate authorities before implementation.

2. The Parties agree to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that consumers are fully informed and protected with regard to code-sharing flights to or from their territory, and, at least, passengers are provided with the necessary information in the following ways:
  - Orally and, if possible, in writing at the time of booking;
  - In written form in the itinerary that accompanies the electronic ticket, or on any other document that replaces the latter, as written confirmation, including information about the individuals to be contacted if problems arise, and clearly indicating which airline is liable for damages or accidents; and
  - Orally by the airline ground personnel during all the stages of the trip.

**Article 25**  
**Leasing**

The designated airlines of each of the Parties may use aircraft leased with or without crew, rented by the hour ("interchange" or "lease for hours) from another company, subject to the laws and regulations of the Parties involved, provided all the airlines participating in such arrangements have the appropriate authorization and comply with the provisions of Article 8 (Safety) and Article 9 (Security). The aeronautical authorities of the Parties involved in interchange shall conclude a specific agreement establishing the conditions of transfer of responsibility for safety, as provided by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

**Article 26**  
**Multimodal Services**

Each designated airline may use surface transport modes together with the international air transport of passengers and cargo, subject to the laws and regulations of the Parties involved, especially regarding customs rules.



**Article 27**  
**Computer Reservation Systems (CRS)**

Each Party will apply in its territory the criteria and principles of the ICAO Code of Conduct, for the regulation and operation of computer reservation systems.

**Article 28**  
**Smoking Ban**

1. Each Party will prohibit or cause their airlines to prohibit smoking on all passenger flights operated by its airlines between the territories of the Parties. This prohibition will be applied in all areas within the aircraft and will apply from the moment the aircraft starts boarding passengers until it completes their disembarkation.
2. Each Party will take all measures it deems reasonable to ensure compliance by its airlines, passengers and crew members, of the provisions of this Article, including the application of appropriate penalties for noncompliance.

**Article 29**  
**Environmental Protection**

The Parties endorse the need to protect the environment by promoting the sustainable development of aviation. With respect to operations between their respective territories, the Parties agree to comply with the standards and recommended practices (SARPs) of the Annexes to the Convention and ICAO policies and guidelines on environmental protection.

**Article 30**  
**Statistics**

At the request of the aeronautical authorities, the Parties will share periodic statistics or similar information on traffic carried on the agreed services. The aeronautical authorities of each Party shall provide or cause its designated airline or airlines to provide the aeronautical authorities of the other Party, upon request, periodic or other statements of statistics as may be reasonably required.

**Article 31**  
**Consultations**

1. Any of the Parties may at any time request consultations on the interpretation, application, implementation, amendment, or enforcement of this Agreement.
2. Such consultations will begin within thirty (30) days from the date in which the other Party receives a written request unless the Parties agree otherwise.

**Article 32**  
**Dispute resolution**

1. If a dispute arises between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, except those that may arise in relation to Article 8 (Safety) and Article 9 (Security), the aeronautical authorities will attempt to solve it first through consultations and negotiations between them.
2. If the Parties fail to reach an agreement through consultations and negotiations between the aeronautical authorities, they will try to resolve the dispute through diplomatic channels.
3. If the dispute cannot be settled through diplomatic channels, the dispute shall, at the request of either Contracting Party, be referred to AFCAC, to LACAC or to a person or body for decision by agreement of the Parties (Mediation).

**Article 33**  
**Amendments**

Any Party may propose to the Depository one or more amendments to the provisions of this Agreement. If negotiations are needed, the Party proposing the amendment will host such meetings and the Depository will advise the Parties about the time and place of the meeting, at least sixty (60) days in advance. All Parties may participate in the negotiations. The amendment(s) will enter into force only after being accepted by all the Parties. The acceptance of the Parties shall be made through writing notification to the Depository.

**Article 34**  
**Registration with ICAO**

The Depository will register this Agreement and any amendment thereto before the International Civil Aviation Organization.

**Article 35**  
**Withdrawal**

1. Any Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notice of withdrawal to the Depository who shall within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the notification of withdrawal notify the other Parties.
2. The withdrawal shall be effective twelve (12) months after receipt of the notice by the Depository unless the Party withdraws its notice by written communication to the Depository within the 12-month period.

**Article 36**  
**Depositary**

1. The original of this Agreement will be deposited with the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), which shall be the Depositary of this Agreement.
2. The Depositary will send certified copies of the Agreement to all the Parties of the Agreement and to all the States that might subsequently adhere to it, that is, to all LACAC and AFCAC States.

After the entry into force of this Agreement, the Depositary will send to the Secretary General of the United Nations a certified copy of this Agreement for purposes of registration and publication pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations; and to the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, in accordance with Article 83 of the Convention. The Depositary shall also send to the cited international officials a certified copy of every amendment that enters into force.

The Depositary will make available to the Parties a copy of any relevant decision issued in accordance with Article 32 (Dispute Resolution) of this Agreement.

**Article 37**  
**Reservations**

This agreement does not accept reservations.

**Article 38**  
**Signature and Ratification**

1. This Agreement will be open for signature by the Governments of the States of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission and by the Government of the States of the African Civil Aviation Commission.
2. This Agreement will be subject to ratification. The instruments of ratification will be deposited with the Depositary.

**Article 39**  
**Accession**

Once this Agreement enters into force, any member State of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission and of the African Civil Aviation Commission may accede to this Agreement by depositing an instrument of accession with the Depositary.

**Article 40**  
**Entry into force**

1. This Agreement will need to be rectified by at least three (3) Member States of LACAC and three (3) Member States of AFCA to be in force. The entry into force will be thirty (30) days from the

date of deposit of the ratification which completes that minimum required.

2. The Depositary will inform each Party of the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
3. Upon entry into force this Agreement will supersede existing bilateral agreements between any Parties, except more favourable provisions of such agreements, which shall prevail.

DRAFTED in ....., on ..... 20....., in Spanish, Portuguese, English, and French languages and signed on this date, by the following Member States:

DRAFT