



Federal Ministry of Aviation
and Aerospace Development

Some of The Achievements Of The Honourable Minister Of Aviation and Aerospace Development, **Festus Keyamo SAN** On The Occasion Of The 2 Years Anniversary of **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu**

When the Honourable Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo SAN assumed office in August 2023, he unveiled a clear and ambitious five-point agenda—a strategic roadmap designed to reposition Nigeria’s aviation sector for global competitiveness and national prosperity.

At the forefront of his vision was an uncompromising emphasis on safety and regulatory compliance, ensuring that Nigeria not only met but consistently exceeded international benchmarks, particularly those set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Recognising that safety is the heartbeat of aviation, he sought to elevate Nigeria’s global standing through strict oversight and continuous improvements.





Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development

Equally critical was his commitment to supporting local airline operators, fostering an environment where indigenous carriers could thrive. While extending a hand of support, he also insisted on adherence to world-class standards, balancing encouragement with accountability to ensure Nigerian airlines earned their place on the international stage.

The Minister also prioritized the revitalization of infrastructure—from runways to terminals—knowing that modern, efficient, and safe facilities are non-negotiable in a sector that connects nations and drives economies.

Keenly aware that systems are only as strong as the people behind them, the Minister laid emphasis on human capacity development, seeking to nurture a new generation of skilled aviation professionals through training, retraining, and knowledge exchange.

Lastly, he committed to optimizing revenue generation for the federal government by plugging leakages, enhancing transparency, and leveraging innovation to make every naira count. Together, these five pillars have become the foundation upon which a new era in Nigerian aviation is being built—an era defined by integrity, excellence, and vision. Here are some of his key milestones so far.

1. Clearing Foreign Airlines' Trapped Funds

Collaborating with the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Minister resolved the longstanding issue of trapped funds, significantly boosting foreign airlines' confidence in Nigeria's aviation sector.



2. Resumption of Emirates Flights

The Minister's diplomatic efforts culminated in the resumption of Emirates flights to Nigeria on October 2nd, 2024, strengthening ties between the two nations. The Minister's strategic meeting with Emirates Executives, after the return flight also facilitated Codesharing Agreement with local airlines. As a result, Emirates has started negotiations on Codesharing with some of our local operators.



3. The Minister Signs MOU With Boeing To Enhance Aircraft Acquisition

The Minister, accompanied by a delegation of major airline operators, led a high-level visit to Boeing's headquarters in Seattle, USA, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing aircraft acquisition, safety practices, and other critical aspects of the aviation industry.

The visit was initiated in response to an invitation from Boeing, demonstrating its commitment to strengthening its partnership with Nigerian airline operators



4. Signing Of CTC And Announcement of Nigeria Score From 49.5 to 70.5 percent By The AWG

In a swift response to Nigeria’s attempt to fully comply with the Cape Town Convention on dry-leasing of aircraft, the Honourable Minister worked tirelessly to prepare and signed the Practice Direction. This enhanced compliance has addressed a longstanding challenge in the aviation sector: the difficulty airlines face in acquiring modern fleets due to high leasing costs the Aviation Based on this, the Aviation Working Group (Co-chaired by Boeing and Airbus) adjusted the global score/rating of Nigeria on our compliance status from 49.5 to 70.5.



**CTC COMPLIANCE INDEX
WATCHLIST NOTICE**
17 September 2024

Contracting State: Nigeria
On watch since: 16 September 2024
Prior updates: N/A
Category: Medium (current score: 70.5)
Variable(s) under assessment: Variable A (current score: 4)
Projected scoring action: Increase
Compliance outlook: Positive

Facts:
The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) is in the process of developing revised IDERA regulations that are expected to incorporate AWG recommendations on compliance with CTC.

CTC Analysis:
Existing IDERA recordation and enforcement regulations in Nigeria require certain documents and actions that are within the exclusive control of the aircraft operator (i.e., return of the original Certificate of Registration and availability of the aircraft for an airworthiness inspection) prior to processing deregistration. There have also been delays inconsistent with CTC in deregistering aircraft upon lesser request after termination of an aircraft lease due to airline defaults. Provide that the revised IDERA regulations address such gaps, and include timelines consistent with CTC requirements, it would be a positive development for Nigeria’s CTC compliance.

Scoring outlook:
The development of revised IDERA regulations by the NCAA incorporating AWG recommendation is a material development affecting CTC compliance in Nigeria.
The projected scoring action on the basis of the foregoing is an increase to Nigeria’s variable score under the compliance index formula (currently: 4), which addresses legislation, regulations and rules impacting CTC implementation, and the outlook for CTC compliance in Nigeria, based on the expected revised IDERA regulations, is positive.

Notices will be issued every two weeks with updates on further developments until a score determination is made.
While the country remains on the CTC Compliance Watchlist (the “watchlist”), its scorecard should be viewed with caution as it does not yet reflect the potential impact of ongoing material developments that has resulted in the watchlist placement.

Copyright: © Aviation Working Group. All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written approval of the Aviation Working Group.

DISCLAIMER: Notices and outlooks issued under the CTC Compliance Watchlist are merely informative and are not to be relied upon by any party, including due to their speculative and treasury nature. Stakeholders should not use such notices and outlooks as a basis to make an investment decision or execute such actions and outlooks as legal advice. Potential investors should contact local counsel for legal advice according to the jurisdiction of each case.

Dear Honourable Minister Festus Keyama,

Thank you (and your colleagues) for the time, effort, and skill over the past months on the Practice Direction, issued late last week.

Based on that important legal development, AWG has swiftly and materially increased the Nigeria CTC compliance index score from 49 to 70.5.

Please see attached:

- Score adjustment notice
- Nigerian scorecard with annotation
- Watchlist notice (re IDERA regulations)

These documents are now public – and are posted AWG’s CTC compliance index platform (<https://ctc-compliance-index.awg.aero/>).

You will note that the attached contemplates these two further potential increases—

- When the IDERA revisions to the regulations are issued (kindly send us an advance draft)
- When the courts refers to the Practice Direction and take court action in accordance with it.

Sincerely -

Jeffrey Wool
secretary general, Aviation Working Group

**CTC COMPLIANCE INDEX
SCORE ADJUSTMENT NOTICE**
17 September 2024

Contracting State: Nigeria
Category: Medium (adjusted score: 70.5)
Variable(s) adjusted: Variable B (increase from 1 to 3); Variable C (increase from 3 to 4);
Variable D (increase from 3 to 5)
Scoring Action: Increase 49 to 70.5

On 12 September 2024, the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, exercising powers conferred by Order 57 Rule 3 of the Federal High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2019, issued the Federal High Court (Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol) Practice Directions, 2024 (the CTC Practice Directions). The CTC Practice Directions, which constitute legally authoritative rules, affirm Nigeria’s commitment to ensuring compliance with its CTC obligations and directs courts to apply CTC without being qualified by other provisions of law in applicable cases. Among others, the CTC Practice Directions (i) set out express, strict timelines for the enforcement of CTC remedies, both inside and outside of insolvency; (ii) direct courts to give effect to foreign court orders granting remedies under CTC within 10 calendar days, and (iii) directly address the jurisdictional issues that had been the subject of previous non-compliant precedent.

As such, the CTC Practice Directions supplant previous substantially non-compliant judicial precedent in Nigeria and the impact of such precedent are no longer reflected in Nigeria’s variable B score in accordance with our methodology. As a result, Nigeria’s variable B score has been increased from 1 to 3. Adherence to the CTC Practice Directions by Nigerian courts in future cases relating to CTC would result in further increases to the variable B score.


Due to the corrective action taken, AWG no longer recommends that a review of eligibility for the OECD discount be initiated for Nigeria on the basis of past non-compliance. Accordingly, Nigeria’s variable C score has been increased from 3 to 5.

Nigeria’s communication channel has worked effectively and efficiently with AWG to address the CTC compliance issues presented by previous judicial precedent, and, accordingly, its variable D score has been increased from 3 to 5.

CTC compliance watchlist status:
Nigeria remains on the CTC compliance index watchlist as a separate compliance-related development is ongoing.

5. Nigeria's Scores Again After IDERA

Following the signing of the Administrative Rules governing aircraft repossession by creditors and lessors, known as the Irrevocable De-registration and Export Request Authorization (IDERA), under the HMA's leadership, Nigeria's global aviation compliance score saw a significant improvement. 24 hours after the signing of IDERA, The Aviation Working Group (AWG) announced that Nigeria's score on the Cape Town Convention (CTC) Compliance Index has been increased from 70.5% to 75.5%, placing the country in the 'high category.' This development marks Nigeria's official removal from the AWG's watchlist of non-compliant countries.



AVIATION WORKING GROUP

**CTC COMPLIANCE INDEX
SCORE ADJUSTMENT NOTICE**
16 October 2024

Contracting State: Nigeria
Category: High (adjusted score: 75.5)
Variable(s) adjusted: Variable A (increase from 4 to 5)

Scoring Action: Increase (70.5 to 75.5)

On 16 October 2024, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority issued Advisory Circular NCAA-AC-AWS001A (*Procedures for Recordation of IDERA and De-registration of Aircraft under an IDERA*) in connection with IDERA recordation and enforcement. NCAA-AC-AWS001A, *inter alia*, (i) prescribes timelines for (a) IDERA recordation and (b) deregistration of an aircraft upon exercise of an IDERA by the authorised party, each consistent with timelines required under CTC, (ii) clarifies that documents and actions within the exclusive control of the aircraft operator are not required prior to processing deregistration or export pursuant to an IDERA exercise, and (iii) clarifies that exercise of export remedies pursuant to an IDERA are subject to applicable laws and regulations permitting operation of an aircraft under a ferry or other special flight permit and excludes any requirement for an export certificate of airworthiness. As a result, Nigeria's variable A score has been increased from 4 to 5.

CTC compliance watchlist status:

Nigeria has been removed from the CTC compliance index watchlist as the compliance-related action has concluded.

Dear Honorable Minister Festus Keyamo,

Please see these two documents, just posted on the AWG website. You will see the new Nigeria score is 75.5, which places the country in the high category. Congratulations and well done.

Best

Jeffrey Wool

6. Boeing's Domestic Airline Trainings

As a result of these global compliance milestones, and according to some of the agreements with Boeing to enhance operational efficiency and help position Nigerian airlines for growth in the global aviation market, Boeing, and Cranfield University, a specialist postgraduate university in the UK have started to implement trainings with our domestic airlines, this is to fortify safety culture and operational excellence as agreed in the Seattle MOU.

Working under the aegis of Boeing Global Learning Institute (BGLI), and themed: Advanced Leadership in Safety Excellence, the leading global aerospace company recently brought together Nigeria Airline Executives, postholders and management of various departments of domestic airline in a five-day in-person classroom training, aimed at improving their safety leadership skills.



7. Increased Competition on UK-Nigeria Routes

Through a sustained diplomatic efforts with his counterpart in the UK, the Minister was able to negotiate reciprocity with the UK government, a landmark achievement that has seen one of Nigeria's flag carriers, Air Peace landing in Gatwick and Heathrow Airports thereby fostering competition and reducing airfares.



8. Operationalization of Lagos New International Terminal

The Minister mandated the relocation of all international airlines to the new terminal at Lagos International Airport, addressing design flaws and ensuring the terminal's functionality within one month of his tenure.



9. Modernization of Lagos Airport Arrival Hall

Through a Public-Private Partnership, the Minister expedited the remodeling of the Arrival Hall at Lagos International Airport's Wing E, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility that elevates passenger experience.



10. United States-Nigeria Open Skies Agreement

The Minister facilitated the implementation of this agreement, opening new opportunities for local airlines to operate on the Nigeria-U.S. route and enhancing bilateral trade.



11. Curbing Illegal Private Charter Operations

The Minister inaugurated a task force to address illegal private charter operations, demonstrating his commitment to sectoral reforms. The Task Force is on the verge of submitting the reports of its findings for the Minister's further input.



12. Directive On International Airlines To Patronize Local Caterers

The HMA, in a bid to support local businesses and boost Nigeria's economy gave a directive to the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) requiring international airlines to use local caterers for onboard meals starting January 1, 2025.

13. African Aviation and Aerospace University Takes-Off

The HMA achieved a significant milestone by ensuring the successful commencement of lectures at the African Aviation and Aerospace University (AAAU). The institution, which marks a new chapter in Nigeria's quest for excellence in aviation and aerospace education, welcomed its first cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The first set of students will pursue a variety of programs designed to meet global standards, ranging from engineering to management and policy in aviation and aerospace.



14. Commissioning of E-Gates in Lagos

To enhance passenger facilitation and security, the Minister commissioned newly installed E-gates at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport.



15. The Return Of Italian Flag Carrier To Nigeria

In another major achievements to our Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA), the HMA successfully facilitated the replacement of the defunct Italian flag carrier, Alitalia, with Neos SPA Airlines, a leading Italian airline. Neos SPA Airlines has commenced direct flight services from Milan to the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos. This addition contributes to the growing number of foreign carriers that have launched flight operations to Nigeria within the past 18 months of this administration.

Fly Nigeria Act Initiative The Minister initiated the Fly Nigeria Act to mandate prioritization of Nigerian flag carriers for government-funded travel, a bold move to support local airlines and stimulate economic growth. He described the Fly Nigeria Act as a bold initiative to support the country's aviation industry, which he referred to as a 'Vital Pillar of the Nigerian economy'.

16. BASA Routes

Under the Nigeria's Aviation Minister's leadership, Nigeria is actively diversifying its air connectivity by opening new BASA routes to Algeria & Cameroon, Brazil, Expanded UAE, and exploring ties with Namibia. The country also signed a BASA agreement with Canada specifically covering code-sharing agreements. These initiatives aim to boost regional and global access, enhance trade, investment, and tourism exchanges and strengthen the operational reach of Nigerian carriers.



17. New Regional Air Routes

Concluded plans with the Algerian Ambassador to open the Algeria–Nigeria–Cameroon route, enhancing regional connectivity.

18. Task Force On Illegal Private Charter Operations

Established a ministerial task force to address illegal private charter operations, which had caused N120 billion in revenue losses. The task force's recommendations, led by Capt. Ado Sanusi, are expected to boost federal revenue upon implementation.

19. Flag-Off The New Era Of Insurance Regulations

Hon. Minister recently flagged off the revised insurance regulations expected to boost the aviation sector, improve irrevocable Deregistration and Export Request Authorization, allow local operators to cede up to 90% of risk to international markets under certain conditions, in line with the Cape Town Convention.

The policy is expected to enhance Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), promote stability in the aviation insurance market, and reduce the cost of air tickets.

20. Automated Immigration Process

The Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development through the able leadership of the Hon. Minister collaborated with the ministry of Interior to enhance easy entry and exit through automated immigration process. E-Visa System: Foreigners can now apply for short stay visas (30– 90) days online and receive approval within 48hrs and automated landing and exit cards: Non-Nigerians and dual citizens must complete their entry or departure cards online 72hrs before travel.

21. Nigeria–Brazil Direct Flight

Nigeria and Brazil have formally signed a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA), paving the way for direct flights between the two countries and marking a significant milestone in both aviation and diplomatic relations. One of Nigeria's flag carriers, Airpeace has been designated for the Nigeria–Brazil routes. The signing ceremony was led by Nigeria's Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Olorogun Festus Keyamo SAN, and Brazil's Minister of Transport, Silvio Costa Filho, in the presence of both presidents.



22. Dry-Leased Boeing 737-700 Aircraft

The Honourable Minister achieved another milestone when Air Peace, West and Central Africa's largest carrier, took the delivery of a dry-leased Boeing 737-700 NG from AerCap, the world's largest aircraft leasing company – marking Nigeria's first dry lease in nearly a decade and reinforcing global confidence in the nation's aviation sector



23. Upgrade Of Maiduguri and Uyo Airports To International Statuses

In the quest to further revamp the aviation industry in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, the Honourable Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development approved the upgrade of the Muhammadu Buhari airport, Maiduguri and the Victor Attah Airport, Uyo to international statuses.



24. Concession Of The Enugu Airport

The concession of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, which the Honourable Minister signed recently is part of the Federal Government's broader aviation sector reform agenda aimed at attracting private investment, improving infrastructure, boosting regional connectivity, and strengthening Nigeria's aviation competitiveness.

25. Hosting Of Nigeria's First-Ever International Airshow

For the first time in Nigeria, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister, Festus Keyamo, the nation hosted an Airshow of global standard. The event which was well attended by international aviators featured daily exhibitions, stakeholder seminars, business exchanges, and special aerial displays by the Nigerian Air Force.



26. Strategic Engagement In Global Aviation Finance

The Minister recently led a high-level delegation of Airline CEOs, and stakeholders to an international lessors' forum- the Airline Economics Growth Frontiers Global Conference in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, as part of efforts to deepen international partnerships in aviation financing and fleet renewal.

27. FAAN's DUAL ISO CERTIFICATION

Under the able supervision of the Honourable Minister, Festus Keyamo SAN, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) recently attained two internationally recognised certifications: ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System). The certifications were awarded by MSECB, Canada, following a comprehensive and independent audit of FAAN's systems and operations.

This achievement confirms that FAAN's operational processes meet global standards for quality management, environmental responsibility, and continual improvement.



Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development