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11th October 2012
For Immediate Release

ATNS IS INDEED PART OF A BROADER COLLECTIVE - TO PROMOTE SAFER SKIES

The week-long CANSO Global Air Traffic Management Safety Conference - that took place at the Waterfront's Clock Tower Conference Centre, Cape Town, has come to an end. Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) Company of South Africa, has demonstrated – through its active participation at the conference – its' indefatigable quest to be part of a broader collective that is committed to promoting safer African skies.

This event, which started on Sunday, 28th October and ended on Friday, 2nd October 2012, has seen – for the first time ever, over three hundred (300) delegates from across the globe – attending all the Safety Conference's sessions. It has been hailed as a success because - important decisions were taken and concrete commitments made.

CANSO Africa Region CEO Committee, which sat early in the week, confirmed the Acting ATNS CEO, Mr. Thabani Mthiyane, as the Chairman of the Africa Region, and the Managing Director of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mr Namdhi Udoh as Vice Chairman. Mr Thabani said that he was honoured to take the helm as the Chairman of the CANSO Africa Region. "I hereby commit myself to working with my colleagues - to develop the CANSO Vision and progress the work-plan for the Africa Region".

The CANSO Africa Region – which was confirmed at the 16th CANSO Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in July 2012 in Rome, Italy - was officially launched on Monday, 29th October 2012. The CANSO Interim Director General, Ms Samantha Sharif, was in attendance.

NAMA announced that it would host the first CANSO Africa Regional Conference in 2013. The Agency's Mr Udoh said that they were looking forward to hosting next year's Conference "NAMA will build on the momentum and success of our first CANSO Africa Region Events in Cape Town this year".

Africa Region Safety Seminar was a participative inaugural Africa Regional safety Workshop, designed to identify regional issues that were meant to be collaboratively handled on a regional level. Issues identified included but were not limited to Operational Safety, Safety Leadership, Political issues, and included country-specific Regulators and Governments' roles and responsibilities. The outcome of the seminar was the establishment of an Africa safety team, creating an Africa safety database and also encouraging regional attendance at safety forums.

ATNS sponsored the Regional CANSO and ICAO Runway Safety Seminar whose objectives were to discuss the strategy for the African continent to attain, among others SMS Capability, improve Air Traffic Management (ATM) Services and Business Performance, ensuring Operational Safety practices and lastly, the collaborative approach on Airspace management. Regarding afore-mentioned issues, it was decided that they will be regionally driven while ensuring global interoperability. The discussions were focused specifically on Runway Safety and the identification and development of mitigation strategies.

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Company Registration No. 1993/004150/06

Directors: MD Mamashela (Chairman) DST Mthiyane (Chief Executive Officer - Acting)
FZ Msimang, HT Makhathini, FKN Tlhakudi, VN Magwentshu, TN Mgoduso,
SV Zilwa, SG Mseleku
Company Secretary: S Mngomezulu



The annual Global Safety Conference – which was the main event of the week - created a great opportune time for the Africa region's safety experts to meet with their counterparts from the CANSO's global membership.

Government representatives, policymakers, and service providers in the aviation industry had an excellent opportunity to exchange views with the private sector, industry associations and academics on the latest developments in the Aviation industry, on latest and new technologies, technical innovation and global supply chain processes.

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