

## **ACI Africa Secretary General visits RAC**

**KIGALI, JULY 13, 2022:** The Secretary General of Airports Council International Africa (ACI Africa) Mr. Ali Tounsi on Wednesday, visited Rwanda Airports Company (RAC) Headquarters at Kigali International Airport.

Tounsi arrived in Rwanda on Sunday, July 10, 2022, for a four-day working visit ahead of the ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition in Kigali, Rwanda from 11 to 17 March 2023.

He was received at RAC by the Managing Director, Mr. Charles Habonimana, before meeting with some members of RAC's senior management to further discuss Rwanda's readiness to host ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition.

Tounsi, accompanied by Habonimana, also held a meeting with the CEO of RwandAir, Mrs. Yvonne Makolo at Rwanda's Head office based at Kigali International Airport.

Tounsi congratulated Makolo upon her recent election as the first woman to serve as the Chair of the Board of Governors for the International Air Transport Association (IATA), a duty she will assume from June 2023.

Tounsi also expressed to Makolo the desire to have RwandAir as the official carrier of the upcoming ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition in Kigali next March.

**Mr Charles Habonimana, MD Rwanda Airports Company (RAC):** *"It is very important to have Mr. Tounsi visit RAC and Rwanda in general, to witness the preparations of the upcoming ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition in Kigali next year in March. We believe his visit will help us to better prepare for ACI Africa meeting. Our discussion also explored further areas of cooperation in relation to capacity building and aerodrome certification where RAC can benefit at a preferential rate. This arrangement will be realized through the MoU signed to between Rwanda Airports Company and ACI Africa,"*

**Mr. Ali Tounsi, Secretary General of Airports Council International Africa (ACI Africa):** *"I am impressed with the infrastructure, the facilities and the whole organizing team here in Rwanda Airports Company, and I think it will be a very big event and a nice country to visit.*

*It is a very nice airport; very clean and I think it will be an example for countries to copy this concept of Kigali International Airport. it is very safe and developing very well. And, I heard that in the near future they will have another big airport. So, congratulations to the Government of Rwanda for this nice infrastructure.*

*“Next year we will speak about airport sector, services provided, technology—how technology can help the industry mainly to facilitate the travel and to ameliorate the quality of service—and also, we will speak about developing traffic, how to work with airlines, civil aviation and we shall be joined by our partners African airlines and civil aviation associations to work together for the benefit of Africa’s air travel.”*

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Ali Tounsi paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Ernest Nsabimana, Minister of Infrastructure, accompanied by Charles Habonimana, for the preparation of the ACI Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition.

They also discussed potential partnership opportunities in aviation industry.

To conclude his visit to Rwanda, SG of ACI Africa, Tounsi on Wednesday evening visited the Museum for Campaign against the Genocide.

#### **ABOUT RAC:**

RAC is a subsidiary of “The Aviation, Travel and Logistics Holding Limited”, a Holding Group wholly owned by the government of Rwanda. Rwanda Airports Company Ltd has within its purview the daily management, operation and provision of air navigation services for all airports in the country.

#### **ABOUT ACI:**

Airports Council International Africa (ACI Africa) is the international association of African airports and is self-governing under its own Statutes and internal procedures.

ACI Africa, the Voice of African Airports, has as prime objective to represent and advance the collective interests of African airports, while promoting professional excellence in airport operations and management, through the provision of effective and quality programs and services, to achieve a safe, secure and sustainable development of the air transport industry in Africa.

As at 30 September 2021, ACI Africa is composed of 68 regular members from 53 African countries, managing more than 260 airports, and of 44 Business Partners.