

**Uganda's Preparations to Host IFATCA 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference - 2027**

Presented by: Uganda Air Traffic Controllers' Association (UGATCA)

**SUMMARY**

The Uganda Air Traffic Controllers' Association (UGATCA) is honoured to host the Annual International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) Conference in 2027 in Kampala, Uganda. In collaboration with the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) and with support from Government of Uganda institutions, IFATCA 2027 will provide a safe, inclusive, and professionally enriching conference experience while strengthening IFATCA's presence in the African Region.

**1. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Uganda Air Traffic Controllers' Association (UGATCA) is the professional body representing air traffic controllers in Uganda, established in 1988, and affiliated to IFATCA since 1989. The Association works closely with the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) and other aviation stakeholders to promote the safe, efficient, and orderly provision of air traffic services.

1.2 Our Objectives of hosting IFATCA 2027 include:

- i. Promoting the ATC profession and IFATCA within East and Central Africa;
- ii. Strengthening Member Associations within the African Region;
- iii. Providing an affordable and accessible Conference destination;
- iv. Showcasing Uganda's growing role in regional aviation and commitment to strengthening aviation systems
- v. Facilitating professional knowledge exchange and cooperation.
- vi. Showcasing Uganda's tourism potential

**2. ABOUT THE DESTINATION**

2.1 Located in East Africa, well connected with the rest of the world, and with a track record of hosting many prominent international events (such as CHOGM 2007, IFAIMA global conference 2017, G77 2024, among others), Uganda is well-positioned to host IFATCA 2027. Also known as the 'Pearl of Africa', the country offers political stability, diversity, regional connectivity, a growing aviation sector and extensive experience in hosting high-level regional meetings and international conferences.

Kampala is Uganda's capital city and principal commercial center, situated near the northern shores of Lake Victoria. The city combines modern conference infrastructure with rich cultural heritage and a reputation for warm African hospitality, safety, and a dynamic social

atmosphere that offers delegates both productive engagement and memorable cultural experiences.

## **2.2 Weather and local time information**

The tag, Pearl of Africa by wartime British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was derived from the country's rare natural beauty, freshness, vibrant spirit and equatorial climate moderated by altitude. Rains normally come between March and May and September to November. The coldest part of the country, Kabale, records lows of 15<sup>0</sup>C while Kampala temperatures range between 21<sup>0</sup>C and 28<sup>0</sup>C. During most months warm clothing is not necessary. Uganda's geographic coordinates are 10 00 N, 32 00 E. The country is within the East African time zone, i.e. 3 hours ahead of GMT.

## **2.3 Exchange Rates & Payments**

Local currency: Uganda Shilling (UGX).

Indicative exchange rate: USD 1 ≈ UGX 3,600 (subject to fluctuation).

The country's legal tender notes are in denominations of 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000, 20000 and

50000 and coins in denominations of 100, 200 and 500 shillings.

Major credit cards, Visa, Mastercard, are widely accepted in hotels and major establishments.

## **3. TRAVEL & VISA PROCESSING**

### **3.1 International Accessibility:**

Uganda is served by Entebbe International Airport (HUEN), located approximately 40 km from Kampala. The airport is served by several international airlines, offering direct and one-stop connections from all continents.

### **3.2 Visa:**

The government of Uganda guarantees simplified visa processing. Many nationalities can visit Uganda without visa while the rest can obtain e-visa services.

Nationals of the following countries do not need Visas to enter Uganda: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic Republic Of Congo, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Island, South Sudan, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Swaziland, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic Of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Nationals of other countries need a Visa which can be applied for and obtained online via [www.visas.immigration.go.ug](http://www.visas.immigration.go.ug) .

### **3.3 Special facilitation for IFATCA delegates:**

In coordination, and with the assured support of concerned authorities, we shall ensure a smooth arrival experience, and coordination in visa processing.

### **3.4 Local Transportation**

- Travel within the country is largely by road. One can take a bus, a public commuter, commonly known as Matatu, or charter a flight to any of the more than 25 aerodromes, 13 of them managed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Uganda.
- In the capital Kampala, "special hire" taxi cabs are available and can be reached from your hotel. Motorcycle "taxis" or bodaboda are a common feature in Kampala and often beat the traffic snarl-ups but may not be safe.

## 4. CONFERENCE DATES AND VENUE

**4.1** The proposed conference dates are **12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2027**.

**4.2** The proposed venue for Conference is the **SPEKE RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTRE**, a luxury five-star lakeside resort hotel in the outskirts of Kampala, renowned for its state-of-the-art conference facilities, luxurious accommodations, and serene environment.

**4.3** The venue is well equipped to host IFATCA in 2027, and offers:

- Grand conference halls with a variety of configurations that can accommodate over 1000 delegates.
- Multiple breakout rooms for side meetings and workshops
- High-speed internet and modern audio-visual equipment
- On-site restaurants offering diverse international and local cuisine

**4.4 Accessibility:** Speke Resort Munyonyo is a 40-minutes' drive from Entebbe International Airport and 10km to the central business area of Kampala city. Public transport of mini-buses is easily accessible just outside the hotel. Taxi is also a very convenient and affordable way to travel in Kampala including; Uber, Bolt and private special hire taxis.

## 5. ACCOMMODATION

Indicative accommodation rates (per room, per night):

Category	Rate (USD)
5-Star Hotels	200 – 350
4-Star Hotels	150 – 200
3-Star Hotels	100 – 150
Others/ Guesthouses / Apartments	40 - 90

Specific names of recommended hotels and their rates will be provided on the conference website

## 6. REGISTRATION FEES (INDICATIVE)

Category	Early Bird (USD)	Regular (USD)
Category 1 MA	280	330
Category 2 MA	250	300
Category 3 MA	200	250
IFATCA Officers, Corporate Members, Invited Advisors, Panel Speakers, Observers.	280	280

## 7. GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The Government of Uganda, through the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Works and Transport, and Uganda Tourism Board, has expressed firm support for IFATCA 2027.

The country is peaceful and one is secure almost all the time. It is however advisable to consult the Hotel concierge before venturing out late night. In case of trouble the Police can be reached on 999 or 112 for mobile phones.

## 8. LANGUAGE

The official language of the Country is English. However, Luganda and Swahili are widely spoken especially in the Capital City, Kampala.

## 9. ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

230/245 volts at 50Hz. British-type three-pin plugs used.

## 10. COMMUNICATION

Worldwide direct connections are available, using the international code or telephone operator if necessary.

From abroad dial **+256** followed by required number.

Telephone and communication services are spread around the country with Internet access available. The major mobile phone companies: **MTN-Uganda, Airtel, Uganda Telecom** offer a wide range of services. The internet top level domain is **.ug**

## 11. TOURISM INFORMATION

The main tourist attractions are the Mountain Gorillas, the Rwenzori Mountain ranges, Kasubi Royal Tombs, the Martyrs Shrine in Kampala, Source of the River Nile, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe and 10 National Parks, 13 game reserves and several national forests spread around the country, all of which can be reached by road or by air. The River Nile with its source on Lake Victoria in Jinja is a setting for some of the world's best white-water rafting. You find the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains, the Virunga Volcanoes, and Mount Elgon, all with spectacular hiking opportunities and gorgeous scenery. The Ssesse Islands found in Kalangala district on Lake Victoria consist of 84 islands that make for a perfect getaway to unique and quiet pristine beaches.

*More than half of the world's Gorillas are in Uganda, along with Chimpanzees and Golden monkeys.*

## 12. UGANDA CULTURE AND PEOPLE

The country has many chiefdoms and kingdoms with a rich history from the past. They have no political powers but have cultural influence. The major Kingdoms and chiefdoms include; Buganda, Bunyoro, Busoga, Acholi, Teso, Rwenzururu, Tooro and Alur among others. According to tradition, these centuries old Kingdoms arose from the medieval kingdoms of Batembuzi and Bachwezi.

## 13. CONCLUSION

UGATCA, in partnership with UCAA, reaffirms its full commitment to delivering a safe, inclusive, and professionally enriching IFATCA Annual Conference in 2027. The Conference in Kampala presents an opportunity for delegates to experience a **professionally rewarding and culturally enriching** event with **top-notch African hospitality**. We welcome you all to the Pearl of Africa for the 2027 Annual Conference.

## ACTION REQUESTED

The Conference is invited to note the information provided in this paper and support the Host Association in its ongoing preparations.