

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE  
CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS RELATING TO  
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AND THE PROTOCOL SUPPLEMENTARY  
TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION ON UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF  
AIRCRAFT ( BEIJING CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL 2010)**

**INTRODUCTION**

It could be recalled that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> ordinary session of the National Assembly in September 2019, the Hon Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure tabled a motion for ratification of the Convention on the Suppression of unlawful acts relating to international civil aviation and the Protocol supplementary to Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft ( Beijing Convention and Protocol 2010).

In this regard, the Convention and Protocol was considered and referred to the Joint Committee of Trade, Regional Integration and Monitoring the Implementation of Government Projects for review and report back to the plenary.

The Joint Committee reviewed the Convention and Protocol relating to supplementary to Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft which was done at Beijing on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. State Parties to this Protocol concerned about the worldwide escalation of unlawful acts against civil aviation recognising that new types of threat against civil aviation require new concerted efforts and policies of cooperation on the part of states, and believing that in order to address these threats, it is necessary to adopt provisions supplementary to those of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft that was signed at the Hague on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1970, to suppress unlawful acts of seizure or exercise of control of aircraft and to improve its effectiveness.

The Beijing Convention is a treaty by which state parties agree to Criminalise certain terrorist acting against Civil Aviation. The Convention was concluded on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2010 at the Diplomatic Conference on Aviation Security in Beijing. The Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of unlawful seizure of Aircraft was adopted during this session in 2010.

The Beijing Convention and Protocol seeks to effectively establish a much broader and stronger civil aviation security framework. Terrorist acts against civil aviation are a continuing and significant threat to global political and economic stability.

The Beijing Convention and Protocol established legal jurisdiction for States to Criminalise the Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism and ensure that the international community will act to combat these offences. The treaties will strengthen global efforts to ensure that these extraordinarily dangerous materials will not be transported via civil aviation for illicit purposes and if such attempts are made, those responsible will be held accountable under the law.

The Joint Committee met with the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the Ministry of Transport Works and Infrastructure and the Gambia International Airlines. During the engagement, the Joint Committee was informed about the benefits of ratifying the Protocol.

### **Reason for ratifying the Beijing Convention and Protocol 2010**

1. The Beijing Convention and Protocol is the result of collective effort by the international community to expand the scope of the Hague Convention of 1970 to enable States to criminalise the use of civil aircraft as a weapon for terrorism activities and organizing, directing, and financing acts of terrorism.
2. The Beijing Convention and Protocol also recognizes the desire of States to enter into International Cooperation to combat the use of civil aircraft as a weapon of mass destruction.
3. States to Criminalise financier of these activities.
4. Collaborative and coordinating efforts for countries to combat crimes in aviation.
5. Transit goods and persons will promote economic growth and fair competition.
6. Travelling and shipping will open markets for competitive prices.
7. Contracting parties have rights to immediately suspend or change the operating authorisation of an airline of the other contracting parties.
8. Aviation as a major catalyst of development.

Finally, the Joint Committee begs the indulgence of this August Assembly to consider and adopt this report.

Thank you.

#### HON. MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, SMS AND SUPPORT STAFF

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2. Hon. Sulayman Saho - Chairperson (Monitoring Gov. Project)
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19. Hon. Omar Ceesay - Member
20. Hon. Sainey Jawara - Member
21. Mr. Bai Ibrahim Jobe - Subject Matter Specialist (SMS)
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23. Fatou Gibba - Committee Clerk
24. Adama Sey - Driver – Minority Leader
25. Yusupha Jatta - Driver – Majority Leader