

# AFRAA inks MoU with the Kenya Association of Air Operators for mutual support to the development of the airline industry in Kenya

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kenya Association of Air Operators (KAAO) to provide mutual support to the sustainable development of the airline industry in Kenya as the country is represented by the two Associations.

The MoU was signed by Abdérahmane Berthé, AFRAA's Secretary General and Liz Aluvanze, KAAO's Chief Executive Officer at a ceremony that took place at the Aero Club of East Africa in Wilson Airport, Nairobi – Kenya.

Under the framework of the collaboration, AFRAA and KAAO will work closely on the following areas of action for the mutual benefit of their membership and industry:

1. Engagement of local authorities and stakeholders on air transport matters;
2. Joint advocacy efforts on issues challenging the airline industry such as: taxes and charges, aviation policy, market restrictions, infrastructure and capacity building;



3. Implementation of the roadmap of the African Air Transport Sustainability Steering Committee (ATSSC);
4. Data and intelligence;
5. Training: Subsidized training courses through AFRAA's ATO partnership framework;
6. Initiatives on People with Disabilities;
7. Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and events.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, AFRAA Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé stated:

"There are some country-specific opportunities and challenges of the airline industry in Africa that vary from country to country. AFRAA is excited to forge a close working relationship with KAAO as this will enhance the level of support by AFRAA to the airline industry in Kenya. This approach is a building block to AFRAA's mission for a sustainable, interconnected and affordable air transport industry in Africa where African airlines become key players and drivers to African economic development."

"As part of KAAO's strategy, we are aiming at developing strong partnerships for advocacy and mutual benefit and this is the first step. We are keen to leverage learnings from AFRAA as they have a pan-African view of the opportunities and challenges faced by the air transport industry in Africa of which Kenya's robust and dynamic aviation sector forms a significant part of this eco-system" KAAO Chairman Mbuvi Ngunze added.

The MoU will synergize the efforts by both Associations. AFRAA and KAAO will align periodically to review the implementation of the annual Action Plan and explore areas for further collaboration.

## Ethiopian Airlines and AFRAA's forthcoming Aviation Convention in May set to change the narrative of African airline industry

In light of Africa's vast landmass, its population accounting for 16% of the world population, and its low share of global trade of 2%, the continent is an excellent opportunity to develop air transport. However, as a market, Africa's share over several decades has remained stagnant at less than 3% of the world market – it is time to take action to change this narrative.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Stakeholders Convention, scheduled to take place from 7-9 May 2023 is timely and aligned to address this situation. The Convention, which is proudly being hosted by Ethiopian Airlines under the patronage of the Government of Ethiopia, will be held under the theme: **“Changing the African Aviation Narrative”**. The event will bring together over 400 delegates from Africa and across the globe. The Convention is one of Africa's leading forums for air transport industry stakeholders to dialogue, exchange knowledge and experiences for the development of the travel ecosystem. Several African airline Chief Executive Officers and aviation industry thought leaders will be present at the event.

Speaking in Addis Ababa on the significance of attainment of sustainability that will change the narrative of Africa's air transport, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé emphasised the importance of dialogue among stakeholders and collaborative initiatives such as those facilitated by AFRAA: “AFRAA and Ethiopian Airlines are excited to stage this Convention for the travel ecosystem stakeholders to meet, deliberate on strategies to enhance efficiencies, create synergies, develop intra-Africa connectivity, ensure business continuity that will redefine the narrative of Africa air transport industry.”

Mr. Mesfin Bekele, Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines remarked, “We are delighted to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Stakeholders' Convention of AFRAA which will serve as a forum for stakeholders in the industry to put their heads together and discuss the opportunities and pressing issues in Africa's aviation sector. The forum will showcase the 'Africa Rising' mantra manifested in the growing opportunities for all stakeholders in the continent's aviation industry.”

### Event highlights

The Convention will be held from 7-9 May 2023 at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. A robust and comprehensive programme has been lined up to facilitate discussions on various salient topics, masterclasses, networking opportunities at social events and B2B sessions through a conferencing application. Delegates will have the opportunity to network and discuss developments in the industry and forge business partnerships.

**CSR event for youth development in aviation:** On 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Convention activities shall cover a CSR activity aimed at empowering the next generation of aviators at the Ethiopian University. The event will be sponsored by Collins Aerospace and staged in collaboration with AFRAA and Ethiopian Airlines.

**Exhibition:** There shall be exhibition and showcase of aviation-related products and solutions at the exhibition segment of the Convention.

**Sponsors:** The Stakeholders Convention is proudly sponsored by Ethiopian Airlines, ASECNA, ATNS, Boeing, Collins Aerospace and Rolls Royce.

## EgyptAir Holding Company Chairman dialogues with AFRAA

6 February 2023, Cairo – Egypt: The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, met EgyptAir Holding Company Chairman – Eng. Yehia Zakaria on 5<sup>th</sup> February at EgyptAir Headquarters in Cairo – Egypt for the year's first edition of the 'AFRAA Member Airline CEOs Leadership Dialogues'.

The CEO dialogues initiative, which hosted a total of 8 airline CEOs in 2022, is part of AFRAA's strategy to communicate with member's leadership aimed at creating the space for dialogue that is necessary to develop transformative initiatives.

The deliberations created an opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas between AFRAA and EgyptAir. In particular, on EgyptAir's plans and strategic direction, the opportunities for intra-African routes through AFRAA route connectivity tool, effective implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), advocacy for optimisation of taxes and charges among other opportunities through AFRAA joint projects which implement cost-effective common solutions on various aspects of airline operations for member airlines.

Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, AFRAA Secretary General stated: "AFRAA is pleased to dialogue with EgyptAir, one of the founding members of AFRAA whose membership spans since 1968."

"The CEO Dialogues initiative which was started in 2022 has facilitated better understanding of our individual airline needs, local matters and challenges, priorities and business plans thereby enabling AFRAA to tailor specific actions that enhance relevance of the Association to our membership. I look forward to a continued mutually beneficial working relationship with EgyptAir and the entire AFRAA fraternity."

Mr. Berthé added.

The CEO's Dialogues are round-the-year sessions that engage the Member airlines' decision makers with AFRAA leadership towards effective implementation of

added-value projects and actions supporting members' sustainability. AFRAA's actions are anchored on 5 pillars including:

1. Safe, secure and reliable air transport
2. visibility, reputation and influence of African Airlines
3. Sustainable air transport
4. Cooperation
5. Data intelligence





## AFRAA Secretary General Intervention on ‘Financing Sustainable Aviation’

AFRAA Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthe in a panel discussion at the 69<sup>th</sup> ACI Africa Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 in Kigali on theme: ‘Financing Sustainable Aviation’, elaborated on the airlines’ perspective to achieve aviation industry Net Zero 2050 target. He highlighted actions under the following areas:

- Decarbonized Fleet;
- Decarbonized Cabin;
- Sustainable Ground operations;
- Sustainable Flight Operations.



Of significant impact to achieve sustainable flight operations is the AFRAA Free Routing Airspace (FRA) project that is among the 5 projects under the 2022 African aviation industry laboratory.

The FRA initiative beneficial outcomes to the African aviation industry include:

1. Facilitate flights to operate along direct trajectories within Africa thus reduce the fuel burn;
2. Reduce airline operating costs;
3. Boost flight operation efficiency on intra-Africa



market and contribute to productivity gains of African airlines and air navigation service providers;

4. Improve operational industry efficiency;
5. Improve intra-Africa connectivity;
6. Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Mr. Berthe further articulated on AFRAA AGA 54 Resolution on Environment which made a call on the following:

1. Call to governments to commit to long term net zero emission goals without compromising the aviation growth potential in Africa.

2. Call to AFRAA members to continue improving their operations' efficiency to achieve sustained in sector emissions reductions and to support the transition to reliable cost competitive sustainable aviation fuel.
3. All industry stakeholders to commit to addressing the environmental impact of their policies, products, and activities with concrete actions and clear timelines.

In support to implement the Resolution, AFRAA is engaging to mobilise resources to assist members through capacity building and knowledge sharing.

## AFRAA Secretary General Intervention on SAATM at the ACI Africa 69<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference

AFRAA Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthe during a session at the 69<sup>th</sup> ACI Africa Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 in Kigali on theme: **“Harnessing of SAATM Opportunities for the Industry – Airline Implementation Programme”** intervened on ongoing industry actions on the Implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), headwinds being faced and recommendations to effective implementation of SAATM.

In his presentation, he elaborated the status updates on ongoing actions of the Air Transport Sustainability – SAATM Roadmap, the connectivity drivers as well as industry initiatives by various stakeholders on SAATM. With regards to status of



direct flights and 5<sup>th</sup> freedom flights in Africa, Mr. Berthe reported that 85% of intra-African flights are direct while 15% connecting with one stop or more. Among those direct flights, 5<sup>th</sup> freedom represent only 21%, while the share of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> freedom flights is 79%.

From AFRAA data hub, it was reported that ASKY airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, and Kenya Airways were the African airlines operating the highest number of 5<sup>th</sup> freedom routes. He added that African airlines operate only 14% of their direct flights on 5<sup>th</sup> freedom while 86% on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> freedom. Non-African carriers operate a most important share of their direct flights in 5<sup>th</sup> freedom in Africa.



With regards to granting of 5<sup>th</sup> freedom traffic rights by African States, AFRAA reporting framework by its member airlines revealed that among 8 (eight) reporting airlines, some have mentioned traffic rights denial by 11 African states.

On opportunities from SAATM, Mr. Berthe highlighted that SAATM is a crucial stepping-stone to make air travel a reality for African citizens; it will grow regional air transport which will to drive economic growth and transform lives.

#### Recommendations to effective implementation of SAATM

Mr. Berthe made the following recommendations:

1. African States to be willing and ready to implement SAATM and to stop denial of 5<sup>th</sup> freedom traffic rights to African airlines.
2. Governments to stop over taxation of aviation.
3. Air transport stakeholders to collaborate to implement the roadmap of the air transport sustainability that was developed by the 2022 Laboratory.
4. Reduce costs along the air transport value chain.
5. Collaboration among airlines to improve connectivity and deliver a better service quality.
6. Right size fleet strategy to improve routes profitability and to connect secondary airports.
7. States, industry, airports to work together to implement the African Routes Development Strategy forum.

## RwandAir hosts AFRAA for the CEO Dialogues Session

3 March 2023, Kigali – Rwanda: The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) Secretary General, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, met RwandAir Chief Executive Officer – Ms. Yvonne Manzi Makolo and RwandAir Leadership on 2 March 2023 at RwandAir Headoffice in Kigali, Rwanda for the **“AFRAA Member Airline CEOs Leadership Dialogues”**. This meeting marks the second edition of the AFRAA CEO Dialogues for 2023. The CEO Dialogues initiative is a drive-by AFRAA to create close engagement with member airlines and a space for dialogue necessary to develop transformative initiatives.

AFRAA and RwandAir had a unique opportunity to reflect and exchange ideas. Highlights of the Dialogues were RwandAir’s vision and strategy, the opportunities for value addition through AFRAA joint projects and initiatives for enhancement of revenues, AFRAA support through advocacy on various aspects impacting RwandAir’s operations such as blocked funds, high taxes and charges, and market access.

At the conclusion of the discussion, RwandAir expressed interest in hosting the 2024 Aviation Stakeholders Convention in Kigali. The Convention is one of Africa’s leading air transport industry events by AFRAA that brings together over 500 delegates from across the globe to foster dialogue for win-win business relationships, build sustainable networks and create a competitive environment to improve the aviation business support base in Africa.





Abdérhmane Berthé, AFRAA Secretary General stated: “I am delighted for the opportunity to dialogue with RwandAir. The platform has facilitated sharing views on key areas that will be followed up in the AFRAA action plan. I look forward to continued collaboration between RwandAir and the Association, which is essential in fulfilling AFRAA’s mandate.”

Yvonne Makolo, RwandAir CEO, said: “It was an honour to meet Secretary General, Mr. Abdérhmane Berthé from the African Airlines Association and discuss our industry’s opportunities in the coming years.

“We are positioning RwandAir to be at the forefront of African aviation and look forward to supporting the growth and evolution of the African travel and tourism sector, which will help drive economic development throughout the continent.”

RwandAir has been a member of the Association since 2009 and is currently a member of the Executive Committee of AFRAA in their capacity of membership of the IATA Board of Governors (BOG) up to their term of office on the IATA BOG.

## Kenya Airways meets AFRAA for CEO dialogues

8 March Nairobi – Kenya: Kenya Airways Chief Executive Officer – Allan Kilavuka hosted the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) Secretary General, Abdérhmane Berthé, at the Kenya Airways headquarters in Nairobi – Kenya on 7 March 2023 for this year’s 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the **“AFRAA Member Airline CEOs Leadership Dialogues”** session. Both AFRAA and Kenya Airways Leadership teams were present at the dialogues session.

The meeting presented a unique opportunity to discuss in detail various subjects, including the state of the air transport industry and the underlying dynamics, updates on Kenya Airways’ restructuring process, the airline consolidation feasibility study for Africa roadmap, the status updates on the implementation of the air transport sustainability roadmap and advocacy actions on various issues impacting Kenya Airways’ operations.



Abd rahmane Berth , AFRAA Secretary General, remarked: "It gives me great pleasure to exchange ideas with Kenya Airways and take stock of feedback for continuous improvement and realignment of AFRAA actions to meet the individual needs of our members better. This is one of the underlying strategies for AFRAA's business perspective to facilitate continued collaboration with our members to fulfill AFRAA's mandate."

At the end of the CEO Dialogues session, AFRAA toured the Kenya Airways Fahari Innovation Hub, a centre for innovation that acts as a springboard for new ideas and data-driven innovations to accelerate impact-driven solutions that address some of the societal and business challenges. Launched in 2021, Fahari Innovation Hub is part of Kenya Airways' strategy in contributing to the sustainable development of Africa by empowering, collaborating, and co-creating innovative ideas and strategies with local start-ups and the small-medium enterprises (SMEs) ecosystem.

Kenya Airways is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman of the AFRAA Executive Committee, and the airline's membership to AFRAA spans from 1977.



## AFRAA Concludes its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly with emphasis on concerted actions to drive Air Transport Industry Sustainability

**December 14, Dakar, Republic of Senegal**

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and Air Senegal concluded the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Dakar, Senegal. The event was held under the High Patronage of the Government of Senegal. The Assembly, which brought together 456 delegates from 42 countries under the theme **"Acting the Roadmap to Sustainable African Aviation"**, called upon African airlines and air transport stakeholders to act on initiatives and strategies that will drive the sustainability of the

air transport sector to realise its potential. Among others, these include: the Air Transport Sustainability Roadmap, the effective implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), the Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), and the Free Movement Protocol.

In his welcome address, Mr. Alioune Badara Fall, President of AFRAA and CEO of Air Senegal stated: "I pay tribute to the extraordinary work by stakeholders in putting in place projects



and programmes to build together a more united future for a sustainable African aviation, for the full benefit of African economies and populations.” The ultimate goal, he noted, will realise the improvement of connectivity between African countries, build truly efficient carriers both operationally and financially, attain structurally competitive tariffs in order to offer African populations the ability to travel, meet and exchange much more easily through new routes, increased frequencies. Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, AFRAA Secretary General, noted with satisfaction and great interest the importance given to the development of the aviation sector by the State of Senegal through investments in aeronautical development infrastructure and the National Company Air Senegal. “In memory of the particularly difficult times during this ongoing phase to restore air transport activity, I would like once again to express AFRAA’s solidarity with the entire chain of players in the aeronautical industry. As the aviation community, we must continue the ongoing joint efforts to support recovery and foster a sustainable and resilient air transport system in Africa.” he stated.

#### **Resolution on aviation net zero carbon emissions by 2050**

Among the resolutions, in line with the industry commitment towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050, the Assembly urged all industry stakeholders to commit to addressing the environmental impact of their policies, products, and activities with concrete actions and clear timelines. The Assembly further encouraged all AFRAA member airlines to continue improving their operations’ efficiency to achieve sustained in-sector emissions reductions and to support the transition to reliable, cost-competitive Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF).

#### **Appointment of officers**

The 54<sup>th</sup> AFRAA AGA elected LAM Mozambique as the Chairman of the Executive Committee while Kenya Airways was elected as first Vice Chairman and Air Algérie was elected as second Vice Chairman. The AFRAA Executive Committee has oversight responsibility for the Association.

#### **Host of the 55<sup>th</sup> AGA**

The 54<sup>th</sup> AFRAA AGA elected Uganda Airlines as the President of the association. Uganda Airlines will host the 55<sup>th</sup> AGA in Uganda from 19-21 November 2023.

Launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the History of Aviation report.

AFRAA launched the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the History of African Aviation Report at the side-lines of the 54<sup>th</sup> AFRAA Annual General Assembly (AGA) & Summit on 12 December 2022 in Dakar – Senegal. The History of Aviation Report by AFRAA is a prestigious industry publication, a first of its kind in Africa, which contains a rich mix of information to enrich the understanding of the development of African aviation.

#### **Highlights from the Secretary General’s State of the Industry report**

The recovery of aviation activity continued in 2022. After a contraction in 2020, Africa’s GDP rebounded by 6.9% in 2021. The prospects for economic growth in Africa are highly uncertain. The effects of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict could lead to a larger decline in global production than currently expected.

Compared to February 2020, African airlines have reopened almost all international routes. Some have extended their network to new destinations, particularly in West and North Africa. From January to November 2022, offered capacity reached 75.4% for the same period in 2019, while traffic reached 74.7%. The recovery of the level of activity in 2019 is still in progress.

#### **AFRAA priorities for 2023:**

Implement the roadmap actions for the sustainability of air transport in Africa.

Continue to roll out the AFRAA Five-Year Strategic Plan.

“Our industry must build its resilience and sustainability in the face of future crises like COVID-19 and stop the progressive marginalisation we have suffered over the past 40 years.” Mr. Berthé emphasised.

### AFRAA retreat

AFRAA Secretariat held a 3-day teambuilding and retreat at the Windsor Hotel in Nairobi – Kenya with the overall goal to drive business performance of the Association.

On one hand, the retreat enabled the Secretariat to review and rethink the strategies to enhance the efficiency of the Association in creating value and delivering our mandate.

While on the other hand, the team building provided an opportunity to strengthen the relationships within the corporate team and maximise team efficiency.

To enrich the brainstorming sessions during the retreat to optimise the output of the Association, AFRAA Secretariat was joined by Mr. Allan Kilavuka – CEO Kenya Airways & 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman of the Association, Mr. Sanjeev Gadhia – CEO Astral Aviation and Mr. Alex Avedi – CEO Safarilink.







## Training Conducted in 2022

### 1. Instructional Techniques Course

AFRAA conducted a Physical Instructional Techniques Course on 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for Rwandair where 14 participants attended the training. Through this course the participants were able to define and implement the basic rules of good Instructional Techniques, demonstrate how to effectively prepare for start, conduct and wrap-up a training event, apply basic principles of learning and active training and demonstrate appropriate instructional techniques.

### 2. Instructional Design Course

AFRAA conducted a Physical Instructional Design Course on 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for Rwandair where 14 participants attended the training. By the end of the course, the participants were able to apply the basic steps of the Instructional Design Process to an instructional problem and develop a plan for an instructional design.

### Upcoming courses

The schedule courses for 2023 are as follows:

Course	Date	Mode	Date
Security Management Systems	5 Days	650	15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> May
Dangerous Goods Regulations	5 Days	650	29 <sup>th</sup> May - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Crew Resource Management	4 Days	500	12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> June
Knowledge Management	4 Days	500	26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> June
Governance and Risk Management	3 Days	400	24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> July
Aviation Internal Auditor	5 Days	650	7 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> August
Advanced Safety Management Systems (SMS) in Airlines	5 Days	650	21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> August
Aviation Lead Auditor	5 Days	650	04 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Dangerous Goods Regulations	3 Days	400	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Quality Management Systems for Airlines	4 Days	500	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Financial Management (Finance for Non-Finance Managers/ Budgeting)	4 Days	500	16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Instructional Techniques	5 Days	650	27 <sup>th</sup> November - 1 <sup>st</sup> December