

Drive the tide for the African airline industry



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A sustainable,
interconnected
and affordable air
transport in Africa.

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Looking back from the 1930's since the earliest African airlines took flight, the industry has navigated different tides while continuously playing an essential contribution to the economic development of the African continent. Regrettably, what has remained unchanged over the past four decades is the modest size of Africa's air transport industry, which has been at less than 3% share of the world air traffic and remained far from maturity. This contrasts with Africa's growth potential being among the fastest rates compared to those of the matured air transport markets.

The call to action to change could not come at a better time. The COVID-19 crisis was an impetus to the entire air transport ecosystem to rethink the business to remain agile and far-sighted to ensure that African economies can continue to reap the benefits of aviation.

As the industry recovery trajectory picks up from the COVID-19 crisis, currently at 93% of 2019 traffic levels, the focus is to be more efficient and sustainable. The seeds to achieve this change were planted at the first-ever African aviation laboratory organised by the industry and hosted by AFRAA in 2022 to develop roadmaps for the sustainability of the African air transport sector. The overall objective of the Laboratory was to address the root cause of challenges

facing the air transport industry in Africa and develop relevant solutions to revamp the sector.

A year after the Lab, the roadmaps of the five projects are on course. For instance, the AFI Free Routing Airspace has the Project Management Team (PMT) engaged in preparatory works towards the Free Routing Airspace trial implementation of selected routes within Africa. The objective is sustainable flight operations through flying as direct as possible within Africa to reduce operational costs and carbon emissions.

The 11th Aviation Stakeholders Convention, scheduled to take place from 7-9 May 2023, is deliberately aligned on this storyline for change. The Convention, 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"**. Air transport industry stakeholders will converge to deliberate on strategies to enhance efficiencies, create synergies, develop intra-Africa connectivity, and ensure business continuity that will redefine the narrative of the African air transport industry. Change is essential. A sustainable, interconnected and affordable air transport in Africa can be realised through change. "What's dangerous, as Jeff Bezos quoted, is not to evolve."

Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé
AFRAA Secretary General