



Ascending Together: Unlocking Africa's Boundless Potential

Across the African continent, we are witnessing a wave of bold developments—new fleets being inducted, major airport expansions, strengthened partnerships, and leadership transitions that signal renewed determination. From Ethiopia's landmark Bishoftu mega-hub project to the innovative hybrid-electric fleet commitments by Safarilink to the EHang EH216-S Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) flight that took place in Kigali on 3rd September 2025, African aviation is not just keeping pace with global trends—it is defining them. These stories embody the resilience, ingenuity, and ambition of our airlines and partners, and they reinforce AFRAA's belief that Africa's skies are filled with opportunity.

AFRAA's Strategic Focus

As the leading voice of African airlines, AFRAA continues to align its efforts with the shared priorities of our members. Our strategic pillars—advocacy and lobbying, knowledge and data intelligence, and industry development—remain our guiding compass. We are championing initiatives that

strengthen connectivity, reduce operational bottlenecks, and unlock growth opportunities for carriers of all sizes.

Central to our mission is the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), a cornerstone project of the African Union's Agenda 2063. Liberalizing African skies is no longer an option but an imperative. Connectivity is the lifeblood of commerce, tourism, and integration; yet, today, traveling between two African capitals can often cost more—and take longer—than flying to another continent. AFRAA is working with governments, regulators, and industry stakeholders to break these barriers, promote competitive market access, and deliver the seamless travel experience that African citizens deserve.

Sustainability and Innovation

The aviation industry faces global scrutiny over environmental sustainability, and Africa is taking proactive steps to chart its own path. Airlines such as EgyptAir, Airlink, Safarilink, and TAAG are leading the way with fuel-efficient fleets and decarbonization strategies. Well outlined in AFRAA's NetZero roadmap, we are committed to supporting these transitions by fostering the adoption of sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs), promoting operational efficiency, and driving regional initiatives aligned with ICAO's long-term aspirational goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

At the same time, technology and innovation are reshaping every aspect of our business. From digital transformation in airline operations to the exciting possibilities of advanced air mobility, African carriers are embracing smart solutions that enhance efficiency, safety, and customer experience. AFRAA will continue to provide platforms for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and partnerships that accelerate innovation across our sector.

Partnerships and Regional Integration

The power of collaboration cannot be overstated. This edition of African Skies is rich with examples of partnerships—Kenya Airways and Air Tanzania’s cooperative MoU, codeshare agreements linking Air Sénégal with ASKY Airlines and Royal Air Maroc, and Turkish Airlines’ codeshare with Airlink. These alliances demonstrate that when African carriers work together, we expand market access, strengthen competitiveness, and deliver greater value to our passengers.

AFRAA is committed to nurturing such partnerships, fostering a spirit of “coope-tition” where airlines compete but also collaborate for mutual benefit under the auspices of AFRAA Route Network Coordination and Cargo Committee.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, I am filled with optimism. The African aviation industry is resilient, ambitious, and innovative. But success will require unity of purpose. We must continue to speak with one voice, advocate collectively, and leverage our continental strengths. AFRAA will remain steadfast in its mission to be the trusted partner and catalyst for a competitive, sustainable, and globally respected African airline industry. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities and ensure that African skies remain a frontier of growth, connectivity, and prosperity.

I invite you to enjoy the inspiring stories in this edition of African Skies and to join us in our journey to shape the next chapter of African aviation. The journey is bold, the vision is clear, and the future is ours to seize.

Abderahmane Berthé
Secretary General, AFRAA