

57th AFRAA AGA Marked by Collective Commitment to Sustainable Skies and Enhanced African Connectivity



The 57th Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Summit of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) took place from 30 November – 02 December 2025 at the HCTA Talatona Convention Centre, Luanda. The event was hosted by TAAG Angola at the high patronage of the Government of Angola under the theme: “Sustainable Skies, Connected Africa”, reflecting a shared commitment to building a more integrated, resilient and sustainable African aviation sector.

The AGA attracted over 500 high profile delegates from the aviation industry in Africa, Europe, Middle East, Asia and North America and was officiated by Hon. Ricardo Viegas d’Abreu - Minister of Transport, Government of the Republic of Angola.

In his opening address, Mr. Nelson Rodrigues de Oliveira, Chief Executive Officer of TAAG Angola Airlines, underlined that the theme represents a collective mandate for all stakeholders in African aviation. He called for coordinated action to strengthen intra-African connectivity, while ensuring that the sector’s growth remains environmentally and financially sustainable.

He also highlighted Angola’s ongoing aviation transformation, notably the progressive commissioning of the Dr António Agostinho Neto International Airport in Luanda, presented as a strategic asset to support North–South and East–West connectivity, as well as trade and tourism across the continent.



The official addresses were followed by goodwill messages from institutional and industry partners, reaffirming their support for African airlines and for AFRAA's role in advancing the sector. In her goodwill message, Ms. Adefunke Adeyemi, Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), stressed the strategic importance of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and the need to accelerate its effective implementation. She highlighted the expected multiplier effects on connectivity, airline competitiveness and Africa's economic integration.



Mr. Kamil Al-Awadhi, Regional Vice President Africa and Middle East at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), reaffirmed IATA's commitment to supporting the African aviation industry in strengthening safety, improving connectivity and enhancing the sector's economic sustainability.

He emphasized the importance of closer cooperation between airlines, civil aviation authorities and industry partners to create a more enabling environment for investment and growth.



In the same vein, Mr. Aaron Munetsi, Chief Executive Officer of the Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA), called for stronger engagement by African airlines within their professional associations. He noted that the credibility and effectiveness of the sector depend on active participation, clear leadership and a collective willingness to move from diagnosis to implementation. He also underlined the responsibility of African stakeholders in improving intra-African connectivity and addressing structural and regulatory constraints.



The opening session of the 57th AFRAA Annual General Assembly thus set the overall framework for the discussions that followed, highlighting a convergence of priorities among airlines, continental institutions and industry partners.

The proceedings continued through a series of CEOs' roundtables, thematic panels and specialized presentations, focusing on the reinvention of airline business models, hub development and connectivity, sustainability, technological innovation and the implementation of SAATM.

Programme highlights

The programme discussions were as follows:

AFRAA CEOs Retreat

On the eve of the AGA, airline leaders from member carriers convened in Luanda, Angola, for a new edition of the AFRAA CEOs' Retreat, hosted by TAAG Angola Airlines. Designed as a strategic forum for high-level dialogue, this initiative recommended by the AFRAA Executive Committee for 3 years provides senior airline executives with an opportunity to reflect on the Association's priorities and on the evolving dynamics of Africa's air transport industry.

Discussions focused on AFRAA's new Strategic Plan 2026-2030, a review of the last Strategic Plan, Strategies for airlines to de-risk opening of new routes.



CEOs Roundtable: "Radical Reinvention for African Airlines Amidst Ongoing Challenges"

African aviation faces a paradox: while global forums discuss growth and profitability, the continent's carriers confront turbulence from fuel price shocks, high operating costs, uneven playing field, supply chain challenges and infrastructure gaps.

This session explored how to reinvent strategies—revealing how leading carriers are turning crises into competitive advantages through out-of-the-box strategies.

CEOs on panel:

Mr. Lemma Yadecha Gudeta, Group Chief Commercial Officer - Ethiopian Airlines

Mr. Nelson Pedro Rodrigues de Oliveira, Chief Executive Officer - TAAG Angola Airlines

Mr. Allan Kilavuka, Chief Executive Officer - Kenya Airways

Mr. Thierry Cloutet, Head of Business Growth - Airbus

Moderator: Eng. João Carlos Pó Jorge is currently VP Africa, ME and SEA - HiFly



Government of Angola Roundtable: “A Hub Strategy for Intra-African & Global Connectivity – The Angola Aviation Transformation”



This presentation outlined Angola’s hub strategy and aviation transformation strategy to position itself as a West-Central African hub, leveraging geographic advantages, infrastructure investments, and policy reforms. Key focus areas include: Luanda’s New International Airport (AIAL), Open Skies, Leadership, TAAG Fleet Modernization and PPPs. The session showcased Angola’s practical steps to enhance continental connectivity while balancing economic and environmental sustainability.

Ms. Augusta Frederico Fortes – Secretary for Trade and Services

Mr. Augusto Laurindo Kalikemala – Secretary of State for Tourism

Ms. Amélia Domingues Kuingua – Chairperson of the Board of ANAC

Mr. Clóvis Rosa – Chairman TAAG Angola Airlines

Moderator: Capt. Rui Carreira - Secretary of State for Civil Aviation, Maritime and Port Sectors

Panel 1: “OEMs Roundtable: “Hard Questions at High Altitude: How OEMs Can Deliver for African Aviation”

Panelists:

Mr. Shahab Matin, Managing Director Commercial Marketing - Middle East and Africa – Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Mr. Joep Ellers, Airline Marketing Director, Africa – Airbus

Mr. Adam Young, RVP Sales Africa - Embraer Commercial Aviation

Mr. Guillaume Huertas, Head of Region, EMEA - ATR

Mr. Raphael Haddad, President - Jetcraft Commercial

Capt. George Kamal, Chief Operating Officer - Kenya Airways

Moderator: Mr. Patrick Baudis, Co-Founder and Director – Airline Factory



Executive interview session 1

“Leadership Dialogue: Driving Continental Collaboration Under SAATM”

The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) represents one of the key aviation projects for Africa yet implementation is slow.

This leadership dialogue cut through the rhetoric identified exactly the progress made and which bold collaborations will finally deliver results. We move beyond memoranda to measurable actions.

Executives on panel

Ms. Adefunke Adeyemi, Secretary General – African Civil Aviation Commission

Mr. Mabitsi Legodi, Head of Business Development - Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS),

Moderator: Raphael Kuuchi – Consulting Director Government Legal & Industry Affairs - AFRAA

Moderator: Eng. João Carlos Pó Jorge is currently VP Africa, ME and SEA - HiFly

Panel 2: “The Ancillary Revolution: Paving the Way for African Airlines to Capture the Untapped \$2 Billion Market”



While global airlines generate \$65+ per passenger from ancillaries, African carriers average just \$9. This session revealed the hidden profit pools and unconventional strategies that will transform African aviation’s financial trajectory - with case studies proving what works on the continent.

Panelists

Ms. Franziska Meier Zu Eissen, Head of Airline Solution for META Region - Amadeus

Mr. Kristiaan van Dijken, VP Airline Account Management - TPConnects

Ms. Achma Asokan Foster, Group CEO - AirlinePros International

Mr. Mahesh Pai, Director Products - Verteil Technologies Private Ltd

Mr. Getaneh Desta Woldemichael, Director Commercial - Eswatini Air

Mr. Somas Appavou, Regional Director External Affairs & Sustainability Africa - IATA

Moderator: Eng. João Carlos Pó Jorge is currently VP Africa, ME and SEA - HiFly

Boeing-AFRAA Sustainability Workshop

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and Boeing hosted a sustainable aviation workshop at this year's AFRAA General Assembly.

The session provided African airlines and other delegates with insights from Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) analysis recently developed by the World Bank and the Boeing supported

work by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB).

The session included roundtable discussions that focused on identifying actions and next steps to harness the significant potential of Africa's SAF ecosystem, and deliver the associated economic, social, and environmental benefits across the continent.

2026 President and Host of the 58th AGA



The 57th AGA Assembly concluded with the handover of the presidency to Mr. Nyl Charles Moret-Mba, Chief Executive Officer of Fly Gabon, who will serve a one-year term, succeeding Mr. Nelson Pedro Rodrigues de Oliveira. He was accompanied by Ms. Edwige Koumby Missambo, Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon to Angola.

AFRAA Executive Committee 2026



Fly Gabon

Member and President of AFRAA



Kenya Airways

Chairman



Ethiopian Airlines

Member



Tunisair

1st Vice Chairman



ASKY Airlines

Member



RwandAir

2nd Vice Chairman



Air Tanzania

Member



TAAG Angola Airlines

Member



Royal Air Maroc

Member



Congo Airways

Member



LAM Mozambique

Member



EgyptAir

Member

AFRAA Annual Awards 2025



The AFRAA annual awards recognize excellence in service delivery, innovation and competitiveness in airlines, individuals and service providers in the African aviation industry. The Assembly conferred for three award categories, namely: the “Distinguished Service Award”, “Airline of the Year Awards” and “Outstanding Service Award”.

Distinguished Service Award

To the Free Route Airspace (FRA) Champions for driving the FRA project in Africa that will continue to result in Air Traffic Management efficiency; Removal of constraints imposed by fixed route structure; Optimized airspace capacity; Fuel burn reduction; Carbon emission reduction and Flight efficiency and flexibility:



Mr. Billy Diabasenga
(PMT Chairman)

Mr. Gaoussou Konate
AFRAA

Mr. Protus Seda
IATA

Ms. Keziah Ogutu
ICAO

Mr. Thabani Myeza
CANSO

Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
(GCAA)

**l’Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation
Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar**
(ASECNA)

Nigerian Airspace Management Agency
(NAMA)

AFREXIMBANK

FRA Airlines

- Ethiopian Airlines
- Kenya Airways
- EgyptAir
- Royal Air Maroc
- RwandAir
- ASKY Airlines

Airline of the Year Award – Best Profitability



Airline of the Year Award – Ethiopian Airlines

For Best Profitability - Global Operations for the year 2024
(Meilleure rentabilité – Opérations mondiales pour l’année 2024)



Airline of the Year – ASKY Airlines

For Best Profitability - Regional Operations for the year 2024
(Meilleure rentabilité – Opérations régionales pour l’année 2024)



Airline of the Year – Fly Boskies

For Best Profitability - Regional Operations for the year 2024
(Meilleure rentabilité – Opérations régionales pour l’année 2024)



Airline of the Year – Jambojet

For Best Improved results in terms of profit ratio for the year 2024 vs 2023
(Meilleure amélioration des résultats en termes de ratio de rentabilité en 2024 vs 2023)



Airline of the Year – Ethiopian Airlines

For Best Improved in intra-Africa Connectivity for the year 2024
(Meilleure amélioration de la connectivité intra-africaine pour l'année 2024)



Airline of the Year – Precision Air

For Best Improved in intra-Africa Connectivity for the year 2024
(Meilleure amélioration de la connectivité intra-africaine pour l'année 2024)



Outstanding Service Award

Ethiopian Airlines for significant contribution to the African Aviation Industry for the year 2024.
 (Pour sa contribution significative au développement de l'industrie aéronautique africaine au cours de l'année 2024)



CSR event for Youth Development in Aviation as Part of the 57th AFRAA AGA Programme of Activities



“Empower – Inspire – Innovate for the Future of African Aviation”

AFRAA, in collaboration with TAAG Angola Airlines, incorporated the Youth Development in Aviation Outreach Initiative as part of the AFRAA AGA 57 lineup of activities.

Various activities were staged during and after the 57th AFRAA Annual General Assembly in Luanda, Angola, as part of the industry’s collective effort to empower, motivate, and attract African youth into aviation careers.

During the conference sessions on Monday, University students had the opportunity to join the conference sessions and get industry exposure as well as network with industry professionals. TAAG Angola Airlines Team held workshops for the university students at the AGA.

« Autonomiser – Inspirer – Innover pour l’avenir de l’aviation africaine »

Dans le cadre de la 57e Assemblée Générale Annuelle de l’AFRAA, l’Association des Compagnies Aériennes Africaines, en collaboration avec TAAG Angola Airlines, a mis en œuvre une initiative dédiée au développement de la jeunesse dans l’aviation. Cette action s’inscrit dans l’engagement collectif du secteur visant à encourager, motiver et orienter les jeunes Africains vers des carrières dans l’aviation.

L’initiative a permis à des étudiants universitaires et du secondaire de bénéficier d’une exposition directe au secteur aérien à travers des

Objectives of the initiative were as follows:

- To inspire and motivate youth to pursue education and careers in aviation and aerospace.
- To raise awareness of the diverse career pathways in aviation—from engineering, piloting, and airport operations to AI, sustainability, and data analytics.
- To connect students with mentors and role models from across the African aviation industry.
- To contribute to AFRAA’s strategic focus on building capacity and ensuring the sustainability of the aviation workforce in Africa.

03 Dec student outreach event

AFRAA and TAAG Angola Airlines held a 1-day outreach event for high school students from Instituto Médio Industrial de Luanda and Colégio Elizângela Filomena. The event was held under the Theme: “**Empower – Inspire – Innovate for the Future of African Aviation**”

A fireside chat session gave the students an opportunity to interact with the industry professionals and gather views on industry trends and ideas on careers in aviation. The speakers during the fireside chat shared their experiences, facts and figures on aviation, their educational journey, what it takes to get qualified for their roles, the role they play in airline operations, their day-to-day experiences in a bid to inspire and motivate the students into aviation careers. The following speakers interacted with the students:

sessions interactives, des échanges avec des professionnels de l’industrie et des activités de sensibilisation. Les participants ont notamment pris part à des discussions inspirantes sur les métiers de l’aviation, les parcours de formation et les opportunités professionnelles.

Le programme s’est conclu par une visite éducative du nouvel Aéroport International Dr António Agostinho Neto de Luanda, offrant aux étudiants une immersion concrète dans l’environnement aéroportuaire et renforçant l’importance du développement des compétences pour l’avenir de l’aviation africaine.

1. **Edgar Quessongo**,
HR Director - National Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC)
2. **Maureen Kahonge**,
Senior Manager Business Development & Communications – AFRAA
3. **Bernarda Henriques**,
Chairman - National Air Navigation Company (ENNA)
4. **João Pó Jorge**,
Former CEO of LAM Mozambique Airlines
5. **Neide Teixeira**,
Chief Legal and RH Officer - TAAG Angola Airlines
6. **Monica Cristino**,
Board Member - TAAG Angola Airlines
7. **Captain Alexandra Lima**,
Captain 777/787 - TAAG Angola Airlines

Following the fireside chat and motivational talks, the students had an opportunity to visit the new Dr. António Agostinho Neto International Airport in Luanda – Angola to cap their day’s experience.

