

## Cogs to turn African aviation into a lively logistics sector

Across the continent, we are witnessing economies diversifying beyond oil and minerals into technology, manufacturing, and services. Africa leads in fintech, with innovations like M-Pesa in Kenya inspiring the rest of the world. Tech hubs in Lagos, Nairobi, Kigali, and Cape Town are driving a digital economy that is transforming the business landscape.

The African Continental Free Trade Area — AfCFTA —, along with the AU's Agenda 2063, is bringing our economies closer together than ever before. With more than 60% of its population under the age of 25, Africa's youth are shaping governance, demanding accountability, and driving democratic reforms. While challenges remain, this young, dynamic population is our greatest asset for development.

Africa is the fastest-growing and most urbanising region in the world. African cities are not only economic hubs but also social and cultural centres with African music, cinema, literature, cuisine, and fashion increasingly resonating on the global stage.

At the same time, climate change is an undeniable reality. Droughts, floods, and desertification are impacting millions of Africans. Nonetheless, Africa is also investing in renewable energy, particularly solar power, showing the world that sustainability and economic growth can go hand in hand.



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### Call for more collaboration among airlines

African aviation remains resilient. Passenger traffic has increased by 15% year-on-year, with AFRAA projecting 113 million passengers in 2025. The passenger revenue trend indicates a strong recovery.

African carriers now hold over 52% of international capacity; however, in terms of intercontinental services, non-African carriers still dominate.

This emphasises the importance of our regional airlines continuing to expand, improve efficiency, and enhance global competitiveness. Mr. Berthé highlighted that new long-haul routes from non-traditional hubs — including Nigeria, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, and Angola — are reshaping the network map. AFRAA, under the auspices of the AFRAA Route Network Coordination & Cargo Committee is actively advocating for cooperation through joint ventures, partnerships, and consolidation.

Alone, we are vulnerable, but together

### The African airline industry cannot remain unaffected by these transformation dynamics

The Single African Air Transport Market now has 38 signatories. Although implementation varies, liberalisation remains vital for reducing fares, improving connectivity, and boosting intra-African trade. Encouragingly, visa openness is also increasing, making African skies and borders more accessible to African citizens.

The issue of blocked funds is easing. Airlines' trapped revenues have fallen to \$1.3 billion in April 2025, down from

\$1.7 billion just six months earlier. This progress — especially in Nigeria — is enhancing airlines' financial

capacity for investment and growth. Airlines facing blocked funds many times end up reducing flight frequencies or suspending routes to the impacted States. To facilitate aviation's economic and social benefits, AFRAA is calling upon governments to remove all barriers to airline revenue repatriation.

we are strong.

Decarbonisation remains one of our greatest challenges. Africa lacks large-scale SAF production; financing and regulatory frameworks are still weak; and infrastructure inefficiencies contribute to higher emissions.

However, Africa also holds unique opportunities. With our abundant biomass resources and renewable energy potential, we can leapfrog into greener aviation if the right policies are implemented and investments are made to achieve the NetZero 2050 roadmap.

## Free Route Airspace aging towards reality in Africa

*“The Free Routing trials with Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, Royal Air Maroc, and Air Arabia are paving the way for Free Route Airspace in West and Central Africa by the end of 2025; a concrete step towards greater efficiency and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.”* He stated. Our airlines need modern, fuel-efficient fleets to stay competitive. We urge financial institutions and partners to expand access to affordable financing, enabling African carriers to update their fleets and prepare for future demands. Safety remains a top priority. The AFRAA Safety and Operations Summit in Kigali this year generated eight key recommendations, including runway safety and training.

## Launch of African MRO event to foster collaboration, reduce costs

Meanwhile, Africa’s MRO market is growing, but a large part of our maintenance is still outsourced outside the continent. That is why we are proud to unveil the AFRICA MRO event that will be staged in 2026. The date and venue shall be announced in the coming days. This collaboration among our four major MROs (MS, KQ, ET, SAA) will help reduce costs, improve efficiency, and enhance safety across the sector.

Aviation is not just part of this transformation; it is a driver of it. The dynamics of the new African landscape require coordinated efforts and close collaboration among all stakeholders, including governments, regulatory authorities, airlines, airports, air navigation service providers, suppliers, and customers.

In concluding, Mr. Berthé stated: *“At AFRAA, we believe in the collaborative approach. Together, we can turn African aviation into a lively logistics sector, supporting economic growth. Together, we can develop the aviation sector Africa deserves.”*

## It is time to transform sustainability from a challenge into Africa’s greatest competitive advantage



AFRAA intervention on the Panel: *“Creating a sustainable African aviation industry, encompassing environmental, social and economic dimensions”* at Aviation Africa Summit, 05 September

The panel focused on the critical actions that need to be done to help create a sustainable African aviation industry which encompasses environmental, social, governance and economic dimensions.

### Framing Sustainability in African Aviation

- **Triple focus: Sustainability in African aviation must encompass environmental (SAFs, carbon offsetting, technology, operations & infrastructure), social (jobs, inclusivity, connectivity) and economic (profitability, resilience, competitiveness) pillars.**

• **AFRAA's role: Driving collaborative strategies among airlines, regulators, financiers, and manufacturers to ensure African aviation thrives.**

## Focus on Environmental Dimension – SAFs as the Game Changer

Maureen Kahonge, Senior Manager Business Development & Communications AFRAA highlighted the SAF Readiness Survey by AFRAA:

**Current status: AFRAA's 2025 SAF Readiness Survey shows:**

About  
**80%**  
of African airlines  
have no access to SAF  
at their operational  
airports.

About  
**70%**  
of African airlines say that  
SAF must be price-competitive  
with Jet A1; only 24% accept even  
a small premium.

**92%**  
are open to collaboration,  
and 84% are ready to join an  
AFRAA SAF Taskforce.

More than half of airlines  
are interested in green financing  
solutions to support SAF adoption.

Barriers on SAF adoption highlighted were: Limited availability, high cost, regulatory gaps, and lack of technical readiness (few feasibility studies completed) and the cost challenge. SAF adoption hinges on financial viability, with jet fuel already a major cost driver (30–40% of airline OPEX), African airlines cannot absorb SAF premiums.

Sustainability requires bold regulatory clarity and regional alignment; fragmented national policies will only slow our progress. There are opportunities for Africa, the continent could achieve 0.6 million tonnes of SAF capacity by 2030 of 5–10% of projected global supply. Local feedstocks (biomass, waste, solar-powered hydrogen) make Africa well-positioned to be a regional SAF production hub.

Airlines have asked for AFRAA actions: Advocate for tax exemptions, subsidies, harmonized certification frameworks, and regional SAF production clusters to accelerate adoption. Strengthen capacity building through training programs, workshops, and technical briefs, Operationalize the AFRAA SAF Taskforce for joint procurement, knowledge sharing, and advocacy.

### AFRAA's Roadmap on Decarbonisation Pathway to Net Zero and Call to Action

AFRAA has published the AFRAA Roadmap on Decarbonization Pathway to Net Zero and Call to Action which serves as a blueprint of actions that African airlines should take at the minimum towards global decarbonization. It outlines key pathways that include:

- **adopting Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**
- **investing in new technologies**
- **optimizing operations and infrastructure**
- **implementing effective carbon offsetting strategies**
- **developing human capital to support the transition**

As the market evolves rapidly, it is crucial to remain adaptable.

This coordinated effort requires active participation from AFRAA, airlines, governments, and other stakeholders to ensure that the African aviation industry not only meets global environmental

targets but also remains competitive and sustainable in a rapidly evolving global market.

AFRAA will continue to track airline progress through surveys to establish successes and challenges as well as take steps to address the bottlenecks.

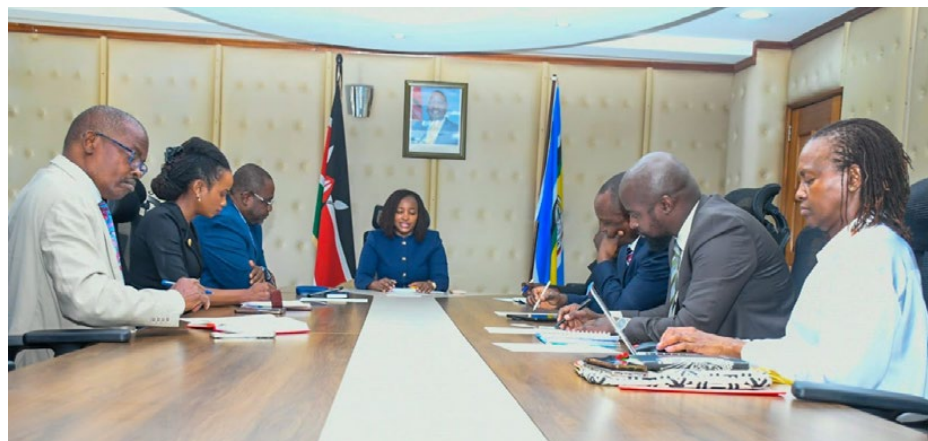
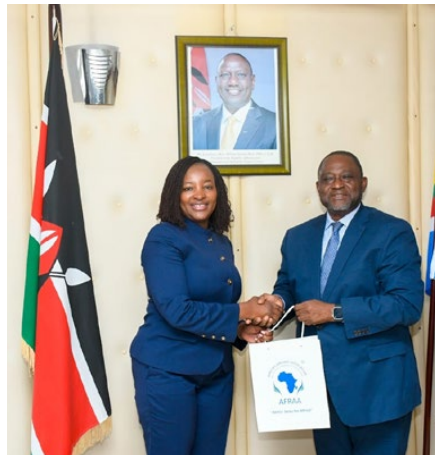
## AFRAA meets the Principal Secretary, State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development of the Republic of Kenya

On 01 September 2025, AFRAA Secretary General – Mr Abderahmane Berthé, paid a courtesy visit to the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development of the Republic of Kenya – Hon.

Teresia Mbaika to discuss areas of engagement with the Ministry for the overall objective of developing the air transport sector. Among others, the meeting discussed:

- **Kenya Aviation Policy implementation**
- **Market access**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Environment**
- **Taxes and Charges**
- **International conventions**
- **Data, statistics and communications**

AFRAA and State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development of the Republic of Kenya will concretize a framework of engagement to support the development of the air transport sector in Kenya.



## AFRAA Applauds Abolition Of Airfare Taxes Across West Africa

**Abderahmane Berthe,**  
*AFRAA Secretary General.*  
 Credit: AFRAA



The Economic Community of West African States Commission (ECOWAS) is set to abolish air ticket taxes in the region by Jan. 1, 2026, as part of an initiative to make air travel more affordable and enhance regional integration.

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) said it “warmly welcomes” the landmark decision.

West Africa is regarded as one of the most expensive regions in the world for air travel, a situation long attributed to government-imposed taxes and aviation charges that significantly inflate ticket prices and suppress passenger demand.

Under the new reforms, ECOWAS will remove non-cost-related taxes, most notably the controversial security tax, and reduce aviation charges by 25%.

Chris Appiah, who is the director of transport at the ECOWAS Commission, says high airfare costs in the region are largely driven by taxes and charges that contradict international aviation standards.

*“These taxes are against the International Civil Aviation Organization’s guidelines and suppress demand rather than support growth,”* he says.

He adds that four major levies, including the security tax, will be eliminated entirely because they are not directly linked to the provision of aviation services.

Speaking to Aviation Week, AFRAA Secretary General Abderahmane Berthe describes the move as a “turning point” that reflects years of advocacy by the association.

*“For years, excessive and often unjustified levies have made regional air travel in Africa among the most expensive in the world, stifling demand, hindering connectivity, and undermining the competitiveness of African carriers,”* Berthe says.

*“ECOWAS has taken a decisive step toward reversing this trend by recognizing that high taxes suppress growth and contradict ICAO’s principles of cost-relatedness and transparency.”*

Berthe says the policy will help restore affordability, stimulate intra-African travel and reposition aviation as a driver of regional integration rather than a barrier. He also praises ECOWAS for implementing directives adopted at the bloc’s 2023 summit and reinforced by a 2024 supplementary act.

However, Berthe adds that the success of the policy will depend on effective implementation, urging all stakeholders, including airlines and regulators, to ensure that cost savings are passed on to travelers, as pledged.

*“We see this as a model for other African regions to follow, in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area goals and the collective vision of a more connected, prosperous Africa,”* he says.

**Source: Aviation Week Network**



## AFRAA and AfriSAF Formalise Strategic Partnership to Advance SAF Development in Africa

African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and AfriSAF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to accelerate the development, production and uptake of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) across Africa.

The agreement was formalised on the margins of the 57th AFRAA Annual General Assembly in Luanda on 2 December 2025 by AFRAA Secretary General Abderahmane Berthé and AfriSAF Chief Executive Officer Kwame Bekoe.

The partnership establishes a structured cooperation framework to support African airlines' decarbonisation efforts, covering policy advocacy, SAF project identification and structuring, feedstock supply-chain optimisation, training and capacity building.

AfriSAF will contribute technical expertise in feedstock mapping, project design and digital traceability, while AFRAA will mobilise its airline members around early offtake

### AFRAA et AfriSAF formalisent un partenariat stratégique pour accélérer le développement du SAF en Afrique

African Airlines Association (AFRAA) et AfriSAF ont signé un protocole d'accord visant à accélérer le développement, la production et l'adoption des carburants d'aviation durables (SAF) sur le continent africain. L'accord a été formalisé en marge de la 57<sup>e</sup> Assemblée générale annuelle de l'AFRAA à Luanda, le 2 décembre 2025, par le Secrétaire général de l'AFRAA, Abderahmane Berthé, et le Directeur général d'AfriSAF, Kwame Bekoe.

Ce partenariat instaure un cadre de coopération structuré destiné à accompagner les compagnies aériennes africaines dans leurs trajectoires de décarbonation. Il couvre notamment le plaidoyer réglementaire, l'identification et la structuration de projets SAF, l'optimisation des chaînes d'approvisionnement en biomasse, ainsi que la formation et le renforcement des capacités des acteurs du secteur. AfriSAF apportera son expertise technique en matière de cartographie des in-

commitments and provide sector-wide coordination to enhance project bankability.

Through this alliance, both organisations will work jointly to promote enabling regulatory frameworks, develop SAF-focused training programmes, support the emergence of viable production projects, and engage development finance institutions, climate partners to accelerate project preparation and investment.

AFRAA underscored SAF's central role in the aviation sector's pathway toward carbon neutrality by 2050, while AfriSAF highlighted Africa's significant untapped sustainable biomass potential and the opportunity for the continent to position itself as a competitive SAF producer in global

trants, de conception de projets et de traçabilité digitale, tandis que l'AFRAA mobilisera ses compagnies membres autour d'engagements d'achat anticipés et assurera une coordination sectorielle pour renforcer la bancabilité des projets.

Les deux organisations travailleront conjointement à la promotion de cadres réglementaires favorables, au développement de programmes de formation dédiés au SAF, à l'émergence de projets de production viables et à la mobilisation d'institutions de financement du développement, de fonds climat et de partenaires internationaux. L'AFRAA a souligné le rôle déterminant du SAF dans l'atteinte de la neutralité carbone du transport aérien à l'horizon 2050, tandis qu'AfriSAF a mis en avant

markets.

The agreement comes at a critical juncture for Africa's SAF ecosystem, as continental and international initiatives gain momentum. By directly linking airlines, technical expertise and project development, the AFRAA-AfriSAF partnership represents a concrete institutional step toward building a sustainable, scalable SAF value chain in Africa, supporting energy security, airline competitiveness and long-term climate objectives.

le potentiel considérable et encore inexploité de la biomasse durable en Afrique, ainsi que l'opportunité pour le continent de se positionner comme un fournisseur compétitif de SAF à l'échelle mondiale.

Cet accord intervient à un moment clé pour l'écosystème SAF africain, alors que les initiatives continentales et internationales se multiplient. En reliant directement compagnies aériennes, expertise technique et développement de projets, le partenariat AFRAA-AfriSAF constitue une avancée institutionnelle concrète vers la construction d'une filière SAF africaine durable et scalable, contribuant à la sécurité énergétique, à la compétitivité des transporteurs et aux objectifs climatiques de long terme.



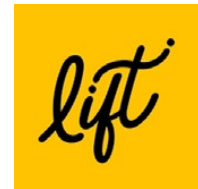
HELLO!

*New Members!***AFRAA New Members**

maureva

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AVIATION PARTNERS

matrix

**AFRAA Membership**

Join the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) the leading trade association of African airlines for a sustainable, interconnected and affordable Air Transport industry in Africa where African Airlines become key players and drivers to African economic development. AFRAA membership comprises all the major intercontinental African operators and the Association's members represent over 85% of total international traffic carried by all African airlines.

**AFRAA Partnership**

As a non-airline entity, join the partnership programme to collaborate with a comprehensive, efficient, knowledgeable and influential air transport trade organization for Africa to establish relationships and expand your footprint in the African continent on the one hand, while supporting the development of the air transport industry in Africa on the other hand.



# Resilient African Aviation

Partnerships • Empowerment • Profitability



# 14<sup>TH</sup> AVIATION STAKEHOLDERS CONVENTION

17 - 19 MAY 2026 - JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



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