



African-Skies

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The implementation of Free Route Airspace in the WACAF region is a game-changer for African aviation. This is a testament to what we can achieve through collaboration. By cutting flight times and fuel consumption, we are not only boosting the competitiveness and profitability of our airlines but also making a significant commitment to environmental sustainability ”

Abderahmane Berthé
Secretary General, AFRAA



AFRICAN MRO CONFERENCE

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Navigating Africa's Ascent: Seizing Our Moment in the Global Sky

In a world where aviation is both a barometer of economic vitality and a catalyst for integration, Africa stands at a defining crossroads. Across our continent, we see not just recovery, but resurgence. New fleets gracing our runways, visionary hub projects taking shape, and a spirit of innovation that refuses to be constrained by legacy challenges. This edition of African Skies captures that momentum, but more importantly, it underscores a collective truth: our potential is boundless, but unlocking it demands unity, courage, and strategic foresight.

At AFRAA, we are filled with profound optimism. The stories within these pages: from the landmark operationalization of the Free Route Airspace in West and Central Africa, to the pioneering intra-African SAF flight by Kenya Airways, and the bold fleet renewals and partnerships shaping our future, are testaments to what we achieve when we collaborate. Yet, we must be clear-eyed. Global headwinds persist:

supply chain pressures, volatile costs, and the urgent imperative of sustainability. Our competitors are not standing still, and neither can we.

This is precisely why the African Airlines Association is embarking on a transformative journey with our new Strategic Plan 2026-2030. This is not merely a document, but a binding commitment to action.

The plan is built on a foundational pledge: to inextricably link every service we provide, every policy we advocate, and every platform we create to tangible, value-added benefits for our members, partners, and stakeholders.

We are shifting our paradigm from being an association to becoming your indispensable strategic partner.

Our mission is to position AFRAA as the premier aviation industry body in Africa—the essential engine that sustains and elevates the competitiveness of every African airline. Through sharper advocacy, deeper data intelligence, and accelerated industry development programmes, we will ensure that your challenges are our command and your growth is our metric of success.

Central to this mission is the relentless pursuit of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). The data is unequivocal: liberalisation fuels connectivity, drives down costs, and stimulates economic growth. While we celebrate the 38 signatory states, we must convert signatures into seamless skies.

The contrasting stories of thriving networks and constrained hubs in this edition highlight the stakes. Protectionism is a cul-de-sac; collaboration is the runway to prosperity. We will work hand-in-glove with the African Union, AFCAC, and governments to break down the remaining barriers—restrictive bilaterals, disproportionate taxes, and fragmented regulation. The recent bold move by ECOWAS to abolish punitive airfare taxes is a model we will champion across every region.

Our competitiveness, however, will be judged not just by our openness, but by our sustainability. The climate challenge is also our

greatest opportunity for innovation. Africa must not be a passive player in the decarbonisation agenda. With our abundant feedstock potential, we can be a global SAF production hub.

The strategic partnership between AFRAA and AfriSAF, formalised at our Annual General Assembly, is a concrete step to build this future.

From policy harmonisation to project financing, we are creating the ecosystem to turn ambition into reality. Similarly, the launch of our dedicated African MRO event in 2026 will catalyse the retention of technical value, jobs, and safety standards on our continent.

To the CEOs, the engineers, the pilots, the policymakers, and the partners reading this: the journey ahead requires all of us. The new AFRAA Strategic Plan is our flight plan, but you are the crew. It calls for your active engagement, your shared insights, and your steadfast partnership. Let us continue to speak with one powerful voice, advocate with unyielding resolve, and leverage our collective strength.

The horizon is bright with promise. Together, we will navigate Africa's ascent, transforming our skies into highways of shared opportunity, resilience, and sustainable growth. The world is watching—let us show them the strength of African aviation, united.

Abderahmane Berthé
Secretary General, AFRAA