



“Redefining Air Transport for a New Era”

9-10 November, 2020

*Better Skies for Africa*

“Join us at the 52nd AFRAA Annual General Assembly (AGA) and African Airport Transport Summit scheduled to take place in virtual format from 9 - 10 November 2020. This year's AGA is being hosted by TAAG Angola under the theme, “Redefining Air Transport for a New Era.”

The AGA will be hosted through a state-of-the-art conferencing application that will ensure the experience is memorable and exciting. We endeavor to create an enabling environment for the air transport fraternity to meet and network.

In addition to statutory Assembly matters to be discussed, the conference segment will be characterized by presentations and panel discussions by African and global aviation leaders to draw the roadmap for a successful restart and recovery of the air transport industry. There will also be exhibition of products, solutions and latest technologies in aviation by reputable service providers from across the world through the virtual platform. For more information, please visit the website:

<https://aga52.afraa.org/>

*“Redefining Air Transport for a New Era”*

## African Skies- Navigating the new reality

African Airlines Association Secretary General Abdérahmane Berthé in a wide-ranging interview provides key insights on the current situation in the African aviation industry, the ways in which the sector can achieve a successful restart and recovery through COVID-19 and the need for harmonized measures to regain passenger confidence.

The African airline industry has been greatly hit by the COVID 19 pandemic, what is AFRAA's assessment of where the industry is at the moment?

The airline industry has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The industry is currently experiencing a liquidity crisis and airlines are facing the risk of insolvency or even bankruptcy due to the lack of liquidity. The resumption of airline international operations started from mid Q3 2020.

Effective June 2020, AFRAA issues a monthly COVID-19 impact assessment report that examines the toll of the pandemic on Africa's air transport sector. The September 2020 edition of the report reveals an estimated US\$ 9bn loss of revenues for 2020 by African airlines.

AFRAA has put in place a recovery plan for the sector, what are the key steps that need to be taken immediately to ensure the industry does not collapse?

In April 2020, AFRAA developed a 9-Pillar recovery plan that outlines a framework of various areas of intervention, measures to be taken as part of urgent, immediate, and consistent actions for the survival and rebound of the industry. The recovery plan was put together as part of the outcome of a webinar by AFRAA for its members which equipped airlines with strategies and solutions to survive and rebound after the Covid-19. The webinar gave valuable inputs from airlines that formed basis for AFRAA's recovery plan for the rebound of the Airline industry. The 9 pillars of the recovery plan include:

- Governments/States
- Regulators
- Suppliers and Service Providers
- Customers
- Maintenance and MROs
- Cost Management
- Cargo Operations
- Workforce
- Strategies to maintain business continuity

The recovery of the airline industry will require coordinated efforts and a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to ensure survival and business continuity of the industry.

Has the industry received support from African governments? What more can they do?

Air transport is a key enabler to economic development. According to the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), aviation contributes \$55.8 billion to GDP and supports 6.2 million jobs in Africa. In view of this important contribution to economic development, AFRAA and other stakeholders have made appeals to governments to consider the compensation of inevitable losses, the alleviation of exogenous operating costs, and the subsidization of the African airlines.

AFRAA, in collaboration with 4 international air transport and tourism bodies made an appeal to international financial institutions, country



development partners and international donors to support Africa's Travel & Tourism sector. Among other measures, the appeal called for the provision of \$10 billion in relief to support the Travel & Tourism industry and access to as much grant-type financing and cash flow assistance as possible to inject liquidity and provide targeted support to severely impacted countries.

AFRAA further contributed to the AUC/AFCAC High Level Task Force comprehensive African Aviation Recovery Plan with recommendations to African Ministries of Transport. Key among which include recommendation to States to put aviation sector as a priority and put in place \$25Bn fund to support aviation sector.

In response to these calls, some governments have announced their support to the travel and tourism industry:

- Burkina Faso: \$6million for the national airline - Air Burkina
- Cote D'Ivoire: \$24million for the national airline - Air Cote D'Ivoire
- Egypt: US\$127 million state treasury support loan for the national carrier EgyptAir
- Morocco: \$600m USD financial assistance package for Royal Air Maroc
- Senegal: \$123million for travel and tourism with \$75m to the national airline - Air Senegal
- Botswana: The Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB) to defer 50% of payment of Botswana Aviation Fees for a period of three months. Accordingly, airlines have to pay 50% of the invoice when it comes due and defer the other 50% for a period of 3 months. CAAB also deferred the 10% charges increase. Originally planned for November 2020, the increase is now postponed to November 2021.
- Rwanda: \$158 million direct cash support to the national airline - RwandAir

### As African countries slowly open their economies, what guidelines do you recommend for restoring air connectivity?

Even prior to COVID-19 pandemic, intra-Africa connectivity was a challenge. To resolve this issue, governments need to support the integration of Africa and ensure policies that allow a conducive environment for the development and provision of safe, reliable and affordable air transport in Africa, necessary for the free movement of persons, goods and services in the Continent.

The recovery of the airline industry post-COVID-19 will be better realized through airline collaboration and liberalization of African skies. SAATM will go a long way to facilitate the airlines rebound due to the fact that market access is a critical challenge for airlines. AFRAA supports the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) project launched by the African Union Commission (AUC). SAATM will have a positive impact on air transport in Africa: better connectivity, reduced journey time, reduced tickets fares and contribute to sustainability of airline operations.

Complementing SAATM, the other AU Agenda 2063 flagship projects that envision an integrated Africa with seamless borders to complement the recovery of African airline post COVID-19 include: the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Free Movement Protocol for people.

### What specific measures have been put in place by the African aviation industry to ensure the safety of passengers once airspaces open?

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) 'Take-off' guidelines provide recommendations and measures to be applied for the resumption of air transport from COVID-19 pandemic. The CART Report was developed through broad-based consultations with States and regional organizations, and with important contributions from the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization and key aviation industry groups, including IATA, ACI World, TIACA and CANSO.

AFRAA published CART 'Take-off' guidelines infographic in July 2020. States, airports, airlines, and service providers are strongly encouraged to follow the key principles and recommendations outlined in the Report, as well as to pay particular attention to the set of recommended risk mitigation measures presented in the guidelines. These health and safety guidelines will facilitate mutual recognition and harmonization of aviation COVID-19 related measures across the globe in line with ICAO's standards, plans and policies.

As we gradually move into restarting our industry, it is imperative that all stakeholders use a harmonized approach and a globally agreed framework of guidance and measures. Seamless Implementation of harmonised measures is crucial for the restart of flights by African Airlines as soon as possible and bring confidence of both passengers and stakeholders. To complement this, in June 2020 AFRAA made appeals to the sub-regional economic communities to urge their Member States to put in place the required measures so that the airlines can resume their activities as quickly as possible.

### Moving forward, are there any strategies that African airlines can adopt and implement to regain strength?

The effects of pandemic will have a far deeper impact on the way the air transport industry will operate post-COVID-19. The recovery will also change the way we will travel, as has been observed after other major shocks in the past.

Firstly, technology will play an important role in shaping the 'new normal' of the industry in ensuring a smooth, efficient and safe passengers' journey to re-establish passenger confidence in air travel; and digitalization of operations to drive more cost saving and achieving higher efficiency than before. With more focus on digitalization, airlines will embrace technology to optimize operations, save costs and contribute to more sustainable future of aviation.

Secondly, in their resumption of operations from COVID-19, airlines will redefine their business models, reposition their networks to realign with new traffic flows and meet changing passenger demands.

Thirdly, cooperation will be important for the recovery of the airline industry post-COVID-19. Airlines will need to collaborate and partake in joint initiatives aimed at reducing operating costs for airlines, increase revenues and market share. AFRAA provides various platforms to facilitate and encourage partnership among African airlines. One of these initiatives is the AFRAA Route and Network Coordination Committee. The Committee was established with the objective of enhancement of commercial cooperation among airlines, schedule coordination, realignment and expansion of airline networks through commercial agreements to enable Airlines to grow traffic and increase revenues at minimal cost.

### What is AFRAA doing to help the industry during these exceptional times?

Cooperation is core among AFRAA's strategic objectives. AFRAA shall continue to champion mutually beneficial collaboration and provide guidance as well as technical support to our members. The need for collaboration and cooperation among African airlines is a critical factor for the airline industry to rebound after COVID-19.

AFRAA launched a monthly industry affair briefing webinar in July 2020 as part of our commitment to advocate for members airlines' interests and keep them informed of the developments in the airline industry. The webinar also informs members and stakeholders of the initiatives and actions undertaken by AFRAA in its mandate to support African Airlines become key players and drivers to African economic development.

AFRAA is currently working on various projects and initiatives for value addition to its members. One such project is the AFRAA capacity sharing portal. In line with AFRAA recovery plan and AFRAA's commitment to enlist support to member airlines' operations, AFRAA is launching a capacity sharing platform named AFRAA 'Powered by ACC' Portal. This portal is designed to improve airplane exchange, enhance cooperation among AFRAA member airlines, and optimize daily aircraft utilization which will be critical for an efficient restart of airline operations.

One of the main challenges for African airlines is the high cost operations in Africa. In this regard, AFRAA shall continue its call upon governments to reduce user charges and create an environment that will enable the growth of aviation traffic post-COVID. Other actions to reduce high costs include: the establishment of NATIONAL economic regulators to ensure reasonable level of taxes and charges, the improvement of efficiencies by Air Navigation Service Providers to reduce navigation charges and the optimization of fees and charges by airports to increase non-aeronautical revenues.

# AFRAA Highlights Apr - Sept 2020

## AFRAA's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly

Looking into the third and fourth quarter of 2020 vis-a-vis the developments on COVID-19 pandemic across Africa and the globe at large, air transport activity is resuming gradually and government-imposed travel restrictions are easing.

Careful consideration in consultation with the President of the Association and host of the AGA as well as the leadership of the Executive Committee has been made on the dates and format of the 52nd AFRAA Annual General Assembly & Summit. We are pleased to announce that the 52nd AFRAA AGA will take place on 09 and 10 November 2020 in virtual format. The AGA sessions are scheduled as follows:

**AGA day 1: 09 November 2020 – 3hrs**

**Opening session, plenary and closed session**

**AGA day 2: 10 November 2020 – 3hrs**

**Plenary session and closing**

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## AFRAA and ACC Aviation Group announce strategic partnership

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and the leading aviation service provider, ACC Aviation Group, announced in June 2020 a strategic partnership for the provision of market-leading services that will support the development of Africa's aviation industry.

The strategic partnership forms the basis for AFRAA's services initiative, "AFRAA Consulting – Powered by ACC", with the global aviation company lending their expertise across a range of aviation services, including strategic consultancy and asset management, aircraft charter and ACMI leasing (Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance, Insurance).

AFRAA Secretary General, Abdérahmane Berthé, commented: "We are excited to partner with ACC Aviation Group. The air transport industry is a key component of Africa's economic development and this joint initiative is an important step in promoting African airlines on the global stage.

"AFRAA Consulting – Powered by ACC will provide our members with access to market-leading strategic services and training, giving them the means to improve organizational resilience and respond even more effectively to global market opportunities".

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## AFRAA intensifies efforts for financial support to African airlines from adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic

As part of intensified efforts and initiatives for financial support to its members from the adverse impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) staged a webinar on the theme: "Financial support to the African airline industry in the context of COVID-19 pandemic impacts."

The webinar, which took place on 04 June 2020, was held in partnership with Afreximbank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The webinar is a follow up to a survey done by AFRAA and UNECA to quantify the indebtedness of African airlines from COVID-19 impacts which forms basis for campaigns for the much-needed financial support.

[Read more](#)

## Coronavirus toll on the aviation industry and call for support measures for African airlines

***The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) urged African governments in March and May 2020 to consider the compensation of inevitable losses, the alleviation of exogenous operating costs, and the subsidization of the African airlines in a bid to assure the industry's viability.***

"Demand for air travel has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, which has resulted in airlines making losses due to substantial schedule changes, travel restrictions and cancellations. AFRAA strongly recommends that African airlines engage their stakeholders to develop an all-inclusive proactive response strategy that addresses the adverse impact of the COVID-19 on their business to ensure airlines recover effectively to support key economic sectors" stated Mr. Abderahmane Berthé, AFRAA Secretary General. He added that AFRAA remains at the forefront with its members and the airline industry at large, in collaborative efforts to deal with and contain the pandemic calling upon all stakeholders to take the necessary measures and precautions to keep safe.

The African airlines association continues to follow the developments closely and is issued weekly bulletins to its member airlines which consists of 45 airlines cutting across the entire continent and other stakeholders to assist in dealing with the impact of the COVID-19, as well as to share guidelines and best practices.

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## AFRAA develops a COVID-19 recovery plan for the African airline industry

AFRAA, in support to its members during these exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic, staged a webinar on 20 April 2020 as part of urgent, immediate and consistent actions for the survival of the industry. The webinar which was held under the theme: "navigating COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for recovery post-crisis" provided a platform for AFRAA to document valuable inputs from airlines that forms part of AFRAA's recovery plan for the rebound of the Airline industry.

AFRAA's Secretary General, Mr. Abderahmane Berthe stated: "The world is experiencing the adverse impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the aviation industry is amongst the worst impacted. The African Airlines Association is in solidarity with the rest of the world in collaborative efforts to support the airline industry during these difficult times." He added that for African economies to recover, a vibrant aviation industry will be critical given the sector's significant role in economic and social development. A number of subject matter experts made presentations on how African airlines can create and implement their recovery plans on areas such as: fleet and network repositioning, finance and cash flow issues, fuel trends and fuel efficiency measures among others. A recovery plan that outlines a framework of actions to be taken by AFRAA and other stakeholders was one of the key outcomes of the session.

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## Appeal to International Community to Support African Travel and Tourism Sector in May 2020

Five international air transport and tourism bodies have launched an appeal to international financial institutions, country development partners and international donors to support Africa's Travel & Tourism sector which employs some 24.6 million people on the African continent. Without urgent funding, the COVID-19 crisis could see a collapse of the sector in Africa, taking with it millions of jobs. The sector contributes \$169 billion to Africa's economy combined, representing 7.1% of the continent's GDP. The request is being made by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and the Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA). These organizations are jointly calling on international financial institutions, country development partners and international donors to support the African Travel & Tourism sector through these tough times by providing

- \$10 billion in relief to support the Travel & Tourism industry and help protect the livelihoods of those it supports directly and indirectly;
- Access to as much grant-type financing and cash flow assistance as possible to inject liquidity and provide targeted support to severely impacted countries;
- Financial measures that can help minimize disruptions to much-needed credit and liquidity for businesses. This includes the deferral of existing financial obligations or loan repayments;
- Ensuring that all funds flow down immediately to save the businesses that need them urgently, with minimal application processes and without impediment from normal lending considerations such as creditworthiness.

Some African governments are trying to provide targeted and temporary support for hard-hit sectors such as Travel & Tourism. However, many countries lack the necessary resources to help the industry and these livelihoods through this crisis.

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## The African Airlines Association advocates for a more sustainable Air Transport industry in Africa

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the trade association of African airlines has urged stakeholders to work together to support African airlines achieve profitability and sustainable operations for development of air travel on the continent.

In a session convened in March 2020 to discuss the aviation industry in Africa, key insights were provided on a number of industry matters including the financial position of airlines, connectivity, growth prospects for the sector and the impact of the Coronavirus on air travel.

Africa is projected to be one of the fastest-growing markets - accounting for 334 million passengers by 2037. Globally, the aviation industry is recording profits while Africa is still considered the weakest region as losses have been registered yearly since 2010.

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## AFRAA launches interactive capacity-sharing portal

Nairobi, Kenya – As part of initiatives and efforts for the industry restart and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) has launched an interactive capacity-sharing portal for African airlines. The portal, which has been created under the auspices of the strategic partnership between AFRAA and ACC Aviation Group, will provide airlines access to market-leading services to support the development of Africa's aviation industry. During the launch, a capacity building virtual workshop was held on 12 August 2020 to demonstrate the functionality of the tool to airlines.

[Read more](#)

## Insights from AFRAA Partners



### Interview with Jens Ziesel, Regional Director for Africa and Turkey, Avionics Collins Aerospace

*Entretien avec le directeur régional pour l'Afrique et la Turquie, Division Avionique, chez Collins Aerospace, Jens Ziesel*

#### Collins Aerospace's tagline is 'Aerospace Redefined.' What does this mean?

Well, it began in 2018 with the merger of legacy Rockwell Collins and legacy United Technologies Aerospace Systems. This merger created Collins Aerospace, a leader in technologically advanced and intelligent solutions for the global aerospace and defense industry. We have about 78,000 employees and had \$26B in sales last year. But, more importantly for our customers is that we have 16,000 engineers around the world who are focused on tackling the toughest challenges in our industry.

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### The future is low-touch and mobile – easier, safer and more efficient for everyone

*L'avenir sera fait de technologies «à contact réduit» et «mobiles» – plus faciles à utiliser, plus sécurisées et plus efficaces pour tous*

Our world and our industry are currently facing exceptional challenges. The most urgent of these is undoubtedly the current global health crisis, but this comes alongside our industry's continuing challenge – to manage the development of air travel efficiently, safely and sustainably, as we become an ever more globally integrated society.

[Read more](#)


### A 'new normal': The changing face of air transport post-COVID-19

*Une «nouvelle normalité»: le nouveau visage du transport aérien post-COVID-19*

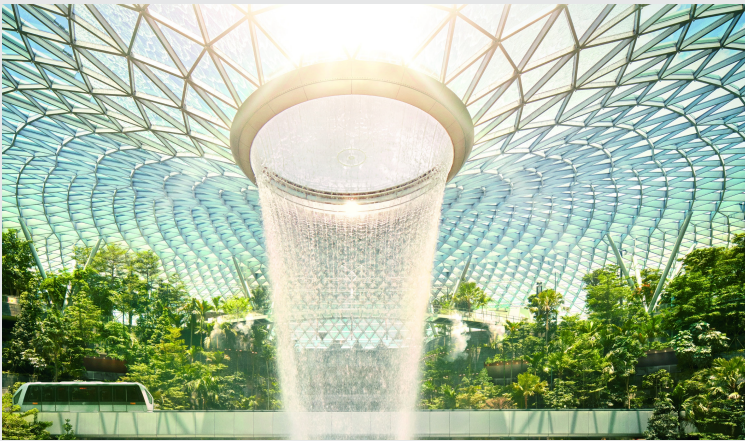
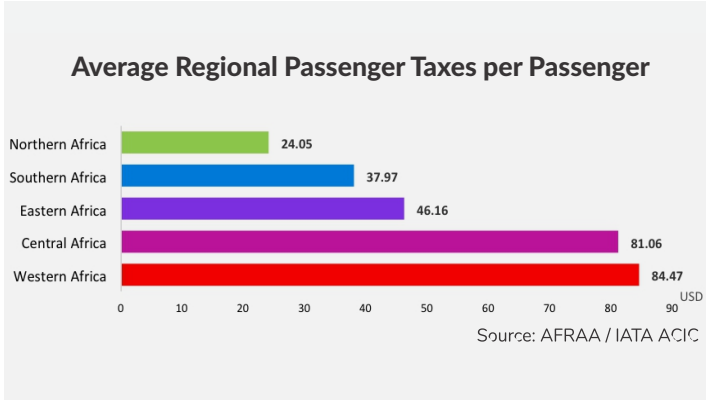
Over the past few weeks, as countries scrambled to stop the spread of the pandemic and keep their citizens safe, there has been a concerted and global effort to contain the movement of people. We have seen countries shut down their borders and passengers opting not to travel. SITA data from April 2020 shows the number of flights dropped by almost 80% globally and more than 90% in Europe compared to last year. Major airlines have suspended operations and airport terminals have been shuttered.

[Read more](#)


### Airlines taxes, fees and charges in Africa

According to World Travel and Tourism Council, the global travel and tourism sector generated 10.4% of all global activities in 2018, contributing 8.8 trillion US dollars to the global economy and supporting 319 million jobs.

More specifically, the Airline industry carried 4 billion passengers and 64 million tons of cargo across the world on around 22,000 routes in 2018 and generated 30 billion US dollars of net post tax profit. Out of the 1.4 billion tourists that crossed international borders, 55% travelled by air.

[Read more](#)


### Creativity during crisis: Strategies for network and fleet planning

This article is part of our Sabre Insights series in which we examine the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 across the aviation landscape. Here, Sabre experts give advice on how to infuse creativity into crisis management by offering new ways of thinking about network and fleet planning during the crisis and the path to recovery.

To weather the COVID-19 storm and plan for a new normal, airlines must challenge old ways of thinking, act creatively and be nimble in their network and fleet planning strategies.

[Read more](#)



## Industry News

### Accelya Completes Acquisition of Farelogix

Accelya, a leading provider of technology solutions to the global airline and travel industry, today announced that it has completed its acquisition of Farelogix, a leading provider of SaaS solutions for airline retailing and New Distribution Capability-enabled commerce. With Farelogix, Accelya will accelerate customers' digital transformations, and will provide a next-generation, end-to-end, Offer-to-Settlement airline commerce platform, including a full suite of innovative retailing, distribution, and fulfillment solutions.

[Read more](#)

### SITA selects basis technology to power contact tracing of infections crossing borders

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generation, end-to-end, Offer-to-Settlement airline commerce platform, including a full suite of innovative retailing, distribution, and fulfillment solutions.

[Read more](#)

### NEC and SITA announce global aviation partnership agreement to deliver the future of digital identity at airports

NEC Corporation and SITA today announced a global partnership to develop market-leading solutions that enable a secure walk-through travel experience at airports, leveraging NEC's I:Delight identity management platform together with SITA Smart Path and SITA Flex. The partnership comes as airports and airlines increasingly look to low-touch and automated passenger processing in order to comply with new hygiene requirements following the global COVID-19 pandemic, in line with recommendations from Airports Council International and IATA.

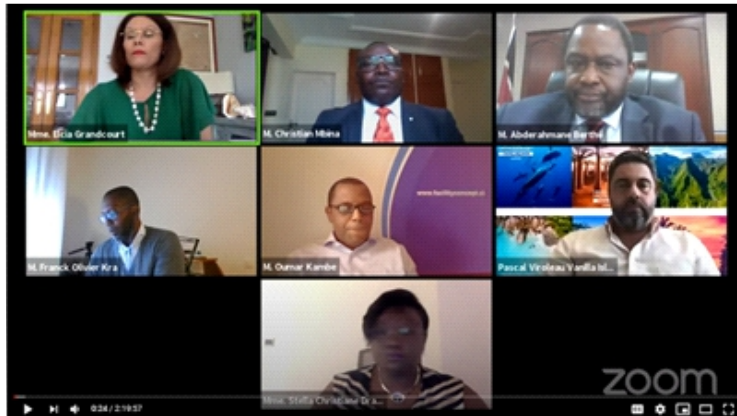
[Read more](#)

## Insights

**AFRAA COVID-19 recovery plan:** <https://afraa.org/afraa-recovery-plan-for-covid-19/>

**CART guidelines for air travel through covid-19:** [https://afraa.org/corona\\_news/cart-guidelines-for-air-travel-through-covid-19/](https://afraa.org/corona_news/cart-guidelines-for-air-travel-through-covid-19/)

### Réaligner nos priorités en période de COVID-19 : quelles mesures pour une relance du secteur?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osX0v7-XxOk>

### AFRAA Secretary General on ensuring the recovery of the African Aviation industry during COVID-19



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsU6CTCQ6zQ>

### This is why no country in Africa should be left behind - African Joint Appeal



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPnHVtFGF18>

### AFRAA Message of Hope



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1ft\\_O9N394](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1ft_O9N394)