

AFRAA Executive Committee meets in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia



The Executive Committee of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) held its 192nd meeting on 12 May 2024 at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mesfin Tasew, the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group.

Among various decisions, the Executive Committee discussed and made decisions on

1. **Finance matters of the Association**
2. **Industry Affairs developments and initiatives by AFRAA including:** airlines' performance, advocacy efforts by the Secretariat on SAATM Implementation, blocked funds, high taxes and charges reduction, and the environment.
3. **AFRAA Joint projects and committees' developments including:** Technical, Operations and Training, Fuel Procurement, Route Network and cargo, Distribution, Aeropolitical and the Free Routing Route Airspace (FRA) trials.
4. **AFRAA'S CEOs retreat**

New Members and Partners

The Executive Committee endorsed the approval of the following applications for the following new members and partners. AFRAA is pleased to welcome them to the Association fraternity:

New members

- i. Z. Boskovic Air Charters Ltd – Associate Membership
- ii. Berniq Airways – Full Membership



New Partner

- i. Aviation Co-ordination Services (Pty) Ltd (ACS) – Associate Partnership

CEOs Consultative Session

The Executive Committee participated in the member airlines CEOs' consultative session on Environmental Sustainability with Envisa that was part of the Agenda for the EXC meeting. The session covered the current context of the aviation ecosystem in Africa, global and local environmental sustainability challenges, the actions for collaboration between aviation and other sectors to achieve results, specific expectations of the aviation industry, and environmental-induced opportunities for Africa.

The meeting was attended by:

1. Mr. Mesfin Tasew Bekele	Ethiopian Airlines	Meeting Chairman
2. Mr. Theunis Crous	LAM Mozambique	Chairperson
3. Mr. George Kamal	Kenya Airways	(Representing CEO) 1 st Vice Chair
4. Mr. Boikanyo Ntwaagae	Air Botswana	Member
5. Mr. Patrick Ndekana	Air Tanzania	(Representing CEO) Member
6. Mr. Esayas Woldemariam Hailu	ASKY Airlines	Member
7. Mrs. Salyy Ahmed	EgyptAir	Member
8. Mrs. Reem Oraby	EgyptAir	Member
9. Mrs. Fatima Zahra Jabri	Royal Air Maroc	Member
10. Ms. Yvonne Makolo	Rwandair	Member

In-attendance

1. Gebeyehu Masrie	Ethiopian Airlines
2. Ahadu Simachew	Ethiopian Airlines
3. Dalmás Owino	Kenya Airways
4. Sergio Matos	Lam Mozambique

AFRAA Secretariat

1. Mr. Abderahmane Berthé	Secretary General
2. Mr. Raphael Emilio Kuuchi	Director, Government, Legal & Industry Affairs
3. Mr. Gaoussou Konate	Director Technical & Operations
4. Ms. Maureen Kahonge	Snr. Manager Business Development & Communications
5. Mr. Dominic Simba	Snr. Manager Corporate Finance & Administration
6. Mr. Denis Kimani	Manager, Government, Legal & Industry Affairs

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AFRAA Technical, Operations, and Training Committee meets in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

The AFRAA Technical Operations and Training Committee (TOTC) held its sixth meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday, 12 May, at Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa–Republic of Ethiopia (On the sidelines of the 12th AFRAA Aviation Stakeholders' Convention).

The Committee has its membership spread across all the AFRAA member airlines. Occasionally AFRAA invites specific aviation industry partners to participate or present on critical topics during the Committee meetings. The key areas of focus for this committee include, among other areas, cooperation with members and partners on cost reduction initiatives, safety, quality, security, training, regional programmes relating to air navigation services, MRO Cooperation, and other revenue enhancement projects. The TOTC holds its May and October every year), meeting twice yearly, in May and October.

Member airlines' representatives from the Engineering and Maintenance, Fleet Management, flight and ground operations, safety, quality, security, and training departments get nominated by their respective airlines to sit on this committee to protect and express the interests of their members.

The 6th TOTC had insightful discussions on:

- AFRAA initiatives (air navigation services cost reduction, aircraft capacity sharing, Line Maintenance pooling; and Fuel Committee developments)
- Africa regional activities;



- i. Status of Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) implementation in AFI,
 - ii. 26th AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and 9th Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI) outcomes,
 - iii. Abuja safety Targets 2024 workshop,
 - iv. AFRAA Safety activities and announcement of the Inaugural African Aviation Safety & Operations Summit.
- Status of the Free Routing Airspace trials implementation;
 - AFRAA Training activities (Training courses conducted in 2023, Current training programme, and AATF project).

Two special presentations were made during this meeting as below:

- IOSA, ISSA, and ISAGO – IOSA “new risk-based approach” delivered by Ms. Joan Otero, Kenya Airways;
- Introduction and review of potential cooperation, delivered by Mr. Thomas Konietzko, Airport Services Association (ASA).

AFRAA Distribution Committee meets in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

AFRAA Distribution Committee meeting took place on 12 April 2024, back-to-back with the 12th Aviation Stakeholders Convention from 12-14 May 2024, which was hosted by Ethiopian Airlines. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Getaneh Desta Woldemichael - Director Commercial of Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation t/a Eswatini Air and Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee meeting apprised members and discussed the status updates on distribution initiatives by AFRAA. The meeting further offered expert presentations on redefinition of retail distribution and innovative and tactical digital payments solutions in Africa.

i. Innovative and Tactical Digital Payments solutions in Africa – Presentation by Ipay – Elipa

Presentation covered reliable payment processing services that support instant payment processing using mobile money, mobile banking, debit and credit cards and e-wallet. Potential collaboration opportunities with AFRAA and AFRAA member airlines.

ii. Redefining Retail distribution - Presentation by Amadeus

With a focus on traveller's needs, NDC allows Airlines to easily build and tailor their offers using the latest merchandising techniques. Synergizing IT and distribution with NDC, Airlines can distribute innovative and more targeted content across the entire travel supply chain. The session will elaborate how to innovate towards modern retailing and enhanced shopping experience.



iii. The path to modern retailing, how African airlines can take advantage of established trends and make big strides towards customer centricity - Presentation by Accelya

Accelya narrated the global trends impacting airline retailing and how African airlines can adopt a customer centric retailing approach. This session discussed about the speed at which NDC can now impact cost efficiencies and grow incremental revenues and what airlines need to address to transform into retailers.

Member airlines had the opportunity to deliberate on various industry developments on distribution aimed at helping airlines create more efficient, reliable and scalable travel opportunities for the future.

In line with the Association's strategic focus, AFRAA launched the Distribution Committee in 2019 among other projects for value addition to members. The Distribution Committee provides a forum to member airlines to explore Africa-specific solutions, exchange knowledge and ideas on airline distribution, payments and settlement with the view to adopting and implementing cost-effective common solutions that will address some of the distribution and settlement challenges faced in Africa. The committee will also explore viable and cost effective initiatives for implementation by the Secretariat to meet its members' distribution needs.