



14TH AVIATION STAKEHOLDERS CONVENTION



MAY 17 - 19 2026 - JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

14th Aviation Stakeholders Convention 17-19 May 2026, Johannesburg – South Africa

Theme:
Resilient African Aviation: Partnerships - Empowerment - Profitability

Programme of Events

Sunday 17 May

Time	
09.00 – 12.00	AFRAA Committee Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFRAA Distribution Committee• AFRAA Technical Operations & Training Committee• AFRAA Route Network Coordination & Cargo Committee
13:00 – 18:00	Registration opens
16.15 - 17.30	Consultative Session with Airline Executives facilitated by Mr. Raphael Haddad, President - Jetcraft Commercial <i>Airline fleet selection and acquisition, and aircraft financing preparation</i>
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome Cocktail reception



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Monday 18 May

Time	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:40	<p>Session I: Opening Ceremony: Together, building a resilient African Aviation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks and welcome from the Host – Mr. Matshela Seshibe, Ag CEO – South African Airways • Opening remarks and welcome remarks, Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, Secretary General – AFRAA • Remarks by Capt George Kamal, Ag. CEO – Kenya Airways & Chairman of AFRAA Executive Committee • Remarks by Mr. Kamil Al-Awadhi, Regional Vice President for Africa and Middle East - IATA • Introduction of the Guest of Honor by ; SAA Board Chairperson, Ms. Sedzani Faith Mudau • Speech and Official Opening by the Guest of Honor, Ms. Barbara Creecy, MP, Minister of Transport in the Republic of South Africa – representing the Government of South Africa
9:40 – 10:10	<p>Networking Coffee/Tea Break</p> <p>Press conference: SAA Ag. CEO and AFRAA Secretary General</p>
10:10 – 10:50	<p>Executive Punchline: “Resilient Growth in a Fragmented Aviation Landscape” <i>This executive punchline frames the Convention by addressing global uncertainty, geopolitical risks, regulatory divergence, and infrastructure gaps, while positioning Africa as the next frontier for aviation growth if structural challenges are addressed decisively.</i></p> <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. George Mothema, Chief Executive Officer - BARSAs • Mr. Aaron Munetsi, Chief Executive Officer – AASA • Ms Bronwen Auret, Chief Quality Assurance Officer - SA Tourism <p>Moderator: Mr. Vijay Poonosamy, Dentons Africa Aviation Lead Partner and Veling Group Board Member</p>
10.50 – 11.30	<p>Session II</p> <p>Industry Leaders Keynote Interview</p> <p>African Airline CEOs on Growth & Sustainability <i>In this candid discussion, the CEOs will share their strategic priorities for navigating a complex future. The dialogue will focus on building organizational resilience, embracing technological disruption, and achieving sustainable growth in a competitive global market. The session will give insights into the strategic thinking at the helm of African aviation and identify common challenges and opportunities..</i></p>



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	<p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capt. George Kamal, Ag. Group CEO – Kenya Airways • Mr. Matshela Seshibe. Ag CEO – South African Airways <p>Moderator: Ms. Maureen Kahonge, Director Commercial & Communications - AFRAA</p>
<p>11.30– 11:50</p>	<p>Presentation 1 “Enhancing Air Connectivity in Angola: Creating Gateways for Economic Transformation”</p> <p>This presentation examines how enhanced air connectivity can drive Angola’s economic diversification and competitiveness by strengthening gateways for trade, tourism, cargo, and investment. It will focus on the key enablers of connectivity growth, including airport development, tourism and trade development, and regional cooperation, while positioning aviation as a catalyst for long-term economic transformation.</p> <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Luena Guinapo, Business Development and Marketing Specialist - SGA Angola (Sociedade Gestora de Aeroportos) • Ms. Thaís Andrade, Business Development Specialist - SGA Angola (Sociedade Gestora de Aeroportos)
<p>11:50 – 12:50</p>	<p>Panel discussion 1 “Connecting Africa: Market Access, Growth and Environmental Sustainability”</p> <p>As Africa remains the world’s fastest-growing aviation market, expanding air connectivity is not a luxury but a development imperative, enabling trade, tourism, investment and regional integration. At the same time, global climate commitments, evolving environmental regulations and rising compliance costs are reshaping how, where and at what cost airlines can operate. This high-level panel will examine market access and growth ambitions on one hand, and Net Zero expectations on the other, through a distinctly African lens. It will explore whether current global climate frameworks, market access regimes and sustainability timelines adequately reflect Africa’s stage of aviation development, infrastructure gaps and financing constraints.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Eyden Samunderu, Project Contracted Expert - EASA/NTU • Mr. Tebogo Tsimane, Chief Commercial Officer - South African Airways • Mr Josia Manyakona, Chief Operating Officer - Air Traffic and Navigation Services Company (ATNS) <p>Moderator: Mr. Raphael Kuuchi – AFRAA Consulting Director Government, Legal & Industry Affairs</p>



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12.50 – 13.10	<p>Presentation 2 Positioning African Aviation Hubs for Competitiveness <i>In an era defined by global uncertainty and shifting traffic flows, the ability of African aviation to achieve resilience and profitability is inextricably linked to the strength of its hubs. This presentation will explore the critical role of strategic hubs in connecting the continent to global markets and facilitating intra-African travel, tourism and trade. The presentation will dissect the key components that define a competitive aviation hub, moving beyond infrastructure to examine the necessary convergence of policy, investment, and operational efficiency. The session will analyse how well-positioned hubs can serve as catalysts for airline profitability by optimising network rationalisation, unlocking new route opportunities, and attracting the right partnerships. The session will give insights into the practical steps required to transform gateway airports into engines of resilient growth that benefit airlines, economies, and passengers across the continent.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Tim Harris, CEO - Helm Growth Partners</p>
13:10 – 14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30 – 14:50	<p>Session III Presentation 3 “Space Weather and Aviation: Understanding the Risk, Managing the Impact” <i>Solar flares and storms can knock out HF radio, scramble GNSS, and spike radiation exposure for crews—yet most African airlines aren't prepared. With new ICAO rules now in force, SANSa (an official space weather warning centre) shows operators how to turn forecasts into action, protect fleets, and build resilience into daily operations.</i></p> <p>By Ms. Mpho Tshisaphungo, Space Weather Manager - South African National Space Agency (SANSa)</p>
14:50 – 15:50	<p>Panel discussion 2 CIOs Roundtable: Smart Travel Ecosystem – Integrated Technology Blueprint to Transform African travel</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Getaneh D. Woldemicheal, Director Commercial - Royal Eswatini National Airways Corporation • Mr. Mario Segovia, SVP & head Airlines Middle East - Accelya Group • Mr. Franziska Meier zu Eissen, Head of Airline Solution Consultants META Region – Amadeus



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	Moderator: Capt. Gilbert M. Kibe, Managing Director - Air Transport Consulting Ltd
15:50– 16:10	<p>Presentation 4 “Air Cargo as an Economic Catalyst” <i>An in-depth look at air cargo’s role in boosting African trade, e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, and perishables, with a focus on digitalisation, sustainability, and policy support.</i></p> <p>By: Mr. Sanjeev Gadhia, CEO - Astral Aviation</p>
16:10-17:00	<p>Panel Discussion Beyond Cost Cutting – Structural Profitability <i>An examination of sustainable profitability levers beyond short-term cost reductions, including fleet optimisation, route network profitability, maintenance strategies, digitalisation, and productivity improvements.</i></p> <p>Brief Presentation by: Mr. Ira Kaviti, Chief Finance Officer - Jambojet</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ira Kaviti, Chief Finance Officer - Jambojet • Mr. Omar Kindo is Group Head of Aviation - Vivo Energy • Ms. Dayna Armoogum, Business Development Manager - Maureva • Mr. Alex Avedi, Chief Executive Officer – Safarilink <p>Moderator: Mr Gaoussou Konate, Consulting Director Technical & Operations – AFRAA</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Networking Coffee/Tea Break
1930 – 2200	Gala dinner

Tuesday 19 May

Time	
09:00 – 09:20	Programme Director's Welcome
09:20 – 09:40	<p>Presentation 7 Digital Payments & Financial Inclusion in African Aviation <i>The presentation will examine the evolution of payment systems in African aviation, focusing on digital solutions, local payment methods, and financial inclusion. The session highlights how improved payment ecosystems can boost revenue and accessibility.</i></p> <p>By: Ms. Meagan Rabe, Vice President Merchant Services, Acquiring and Fintech for SSA - VISA</p>



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09:40 – 10:10	<p>Presentation 8 “Unlocking new revenue streams: From Distribution Freedom to True Airline Retailing.” <i>The presentation will focus on NDC, Offer–Order–Settle–Deliver (OOSD), and modern airline retailing, highlighting practical steps African airlines can take today to unlock new revenue streams.</i></p> <p>By Mr. Kristiaan VanDijken, VP Account Management - TPConnects Technologies Mr. Giuseppe Candela, VP Global Sales - TPConnects Technologies</p>
10:00 – 10:40	<p>Executive interview “Talent 2030 – Bridging the Skills Gap for Aviation’s Digital & Green Horizon” <i>As African aviation accelerates toward 2030, the industry faces a dual transformation: the push for net-zero emissions and the rapid integration of automation. This panel moves beyond the hype of isolated technologies to address the critical question of workforce agility. How do we train the next generation of pilots, engineers, and air traffic controllers to manage AI-assisted systems, maintain new sustainable fleets, and adapt to a digitally native passenger base? Join industry leaders as we map out the practical skills, regulatory shifts, and educational partnerships required to secure the continent’s aviation talent pipeline.</i></p> <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captain Vusi Khumalo, Manager, Aviation Training Organisation – South African Airways • Ms. Refilwe Ledwaba, Executive Director - Girls Fly Programme in Africa (GFPA) • Ms. Tania Marques, Director of HR Strategy and Organizational Culture - TAAG Angola Airlines • Ms. Wambui Mureithi, Manager Industry Solutions - IATA <p>Moderator: Ms. Mafunase Ngosa Malenga, Managing Director - Southern Africa Institute of Aviation Science & Technology</p>
10:40 – 11:20	Networking Coffee/Tea Break
11:20 – 12:20	<p><u>Masterclasses</u></p> <p>Masterclass 1: “Loyalty as a Strategic Growth Lever for African Airlines” by LH Consulting <i>In an increasingly competitive African aviation market, loyalty is no longer just a about Miles and Points - it’s a strategic asset. Airlines across the continent are navigating a rapidly evolving landscape with rising operational costs and customers whose expectations are shaped by global travel experiences. The ability to build and retain loyal customers with a profitable model will determine which airlines thrive.</i></p>



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We will look beyond traditional frequent flyer schemes to understand how Loyalty can unlock new value, not only for passengers but for the airline's entire ecosystem.

Discover how your airline can:

- *Design loyalty programs for B2C & B2B segments that fit the market context*
- *Use loyalty as a profit center, not a cost center and why partnerships are key*
- *Build strategies to increase customer lifetime value through loyalty 2.0 innovations and data-driven engagement*
- *Create a loyalty ecosystem that is anchored at the heart of your airline and how it can support your overall corporate strategy*

Facilitator: Ms. Larissa Maric, Senior Consultant at Lufthansa Consulting (*prior Program Manager for the Lufthansa Group Corporate Loyalty program "PartnerPlusBenefit" with 100K corporate customer registrations and a revenue generation of around 2bn Euro p.a.*)

Masterclass 2: "From aircraft selection to profitable operations: prepare, deliver, certify, stabilize, optimize, grow - efficiently and effectively"

By AviaPro

In today's constrained and capital-intensive aviation environment, aircraft selection is only the beginning. True success lies in managing the entire lifecycle from strategic fleet planning and acquisition to entry into service and sustainable, profitable operations.

This masterclass, jointly presented by Jetcraft Commercial and AviaPro, will guide delegates through the full journey: selecting the right aircraft for the right network, structuring and financing the transaction, managing delivery and certification, and ensuring operational stabilization and long-term performance optimization. Drawing on real-world transactions and emerging market case studies, the session will explore how airlines can mitigate risk, accelerate entry into service, strengthen balance sheets, and unlock profitable growth.

Facilitator:

Mr. Kevin Clarke, Head of Sales and Operations – AviaPro

Masterclass 3: "Balancing Aircraft Height Keeping Performance and The Risk of Collision in RVSM Airspace"

By ATNS

Since the implementation of Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) in 2008, ICAO has entrusted global Regional Monitoring Agencies (RMAs) to ensure that aircraft operating in the RVSM airspace comply with regional RVSM Height Monitoring Programs. The AFI Regional Monitoring Agency (ARMA)'s mandate is to monitor compliance and propose mitigations where potential risks are identified.



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	<p><i>This masterclass is meant to raise awareness and avoid suspensions of RVSM airspace within any Flight Information Region (FIR) of the AFI States, to ensure continued benefits of RVSM airspace is realised by the operators and air traffic service providers (ATSP) explore more efficient ways to accommodate the growing air traffic demand and make room for the envisioned expansion of RVSM airspace, as more sophisticated aircraft aim to fly higher.</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Maokane Hb. Manala, Head of ARMA - ATNS</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>Session VI Closing Ceremony Acknowledgement of sponsors and exhibitors</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:30	<p>Scheduled B2B meeting appointments</p> <p>Safety Group Meeting in Closed Session</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Networking break at the exhibition

Wednesday 20 May

	3rd African Aviation Safety & Operations Summit
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Thursday 21 May

	CSR Event for Youth Development in Aviation
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