

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
20-21 June 2023

**IATA**  
**FOCUS**  
**AFRICA**  
**CONFERENCE**



# Agenda



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## Anti-trust Guidelines

**The following types of agreements are strictly prohibited:**

- Any collective agreement concerning prices or charges for airline services;
- Any collective agreement allocating markets, territories, customers, suppliers or agents;
- Any collective agreement relating to prices or charges to be paid to suppliers, etc.
- Any agreement that is intended to, or in operation is likely to induce airlines or their suppliers or agents to engage in anticompetitive behavior, etc.

**The exchange of information of the following types of information is for example prohibited:**

- Individual airline rates, charges or surcharges;
- Individual airline costs;
- An individual airline's intentions regarding increasing, reducing or reallocating aircraft capacity (including entering or exiting routes);
- An individual airline's intentions regarding charging for certain products or services or changes to the existing charges for such products or services;
- Information on individual airlines customers; and
- Any other sensitive commercial or proprietary information that the company would not disclose in the absence of an express or implied agreement to exchange such information for the purpose of reducing or restricting competition in the airline industry.





## Day 1 - 20 June, 2023

- 08:00 – 09:00**      **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:10**      **IATA Opening & Welcome**  
Speaker: Willie Walsh  
Director General, IATA
- 09:10 – 09:15**      **Keynote Address – Government of Ethiopia**  
Speaker: Mr. Dhenge Boru  
State Minister of Ethiopian Transport and Logistics
- 09:15 – 09:25**      **Keynote Address – Ethiopian Airlines**  
Speaker: Mesfin Tasew  
CEO, Ethiopian Airlines Group
- 09:25 – 09:35**      **Keynote Address - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**  
Speaker: Timothy L. Arel  
Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization, FAA
- 09:35 – 09:40**      **Keynote Address - African Union**  
Speaker: Eric Ntagengerwa  
Head of Transport and Mobility, African Union
- 09:40 – 09:45**      **Keynote Address – African Civil Aviation Commission**  
Speaker: Adefunke Adeyemi  
Secretary General, AFCAC
- 09:45 – 10:10**      **IATA Economic Outlook**  
Speaker: Marie Owens-Thomson  
Senior Vice-President, Sustainability and Chief Economist, IATA
- 10:10 – 10:40**      **The Issues Facing the Airline Industry in Africa – Interactive Briefing**  
Speaker: Kamil Alawadhi  
Regional Vice-President, Africa and Middle East, IATA
- 10:40 – 11:15**      **Networking Break and Media Briefing**
- 11:15 – 12:15**      **Panel: African Aviation Outlook**  
  
Moderator: Kamil Alawadhi  
Regional Vice-President, Africa and Middle East, IATA  
  
Speakers:      Willie Walsh – Director General, IATA  
                    Mesfin Tasew – CEO, Ethiopian Airlines Group  
                    Aaron Munetsi – CEO, AASA  
                    Abderahmane Berthé – Secretary General, AFRAA
- 12:15 – 12:45**      **IATA Focus Africa Initiative - Overview and Interactive Session**  
Speaker: Kamil Alawadhi  
Regional Vice-President, Africa and Middle East, IATA
- 12:45 – 13:45**      **Lunch Break (60 minutes)**





## Main Hall

**13:45 – 14:15**    **Panel: Towards Sustainable Recovery: Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 and Future Shocks**

Moderators:  
Sandile Chipunza Manager,  
External Affairs &  
Sustainability, Africa, IATA

Farah Mesmar  
Regional Manager for  
Environment and  
Sustainability, Africa and  
Middle East, IATA

Speakers:  
Abderahmane Berthé  
Secretary General, AFRAA

Nomasonto Ndlovu  
COO and Acting CEO  
South African Tourism

Francis Mwangi  
Environmental Expert/Senior  
Planning Officer, Kenya Civil  
Aviation Authority (KCAA)

Abel Alemu  
Managing Director, Ethiopian  
Airlines Cargo & Logistic  
Services

**14:15 – 14:30**    **Presentation: Introduction to the Global Passenger Survey**

Speaker: Kashif Khalid  
Regional Director, Operations,  
Safety and Security Africa and  
Middle East, IATA

**14:30 – 15:00**    **Presentation: Airlines Creating Value Through Modern Airline Retailing**

Moderator: Yanik Hoyles  
Director Distribution, IATA

Speaker: Umesh Chhiber  
Senior VP Revenue, Retail and  
Cargo, Oman Air

## Breakout Hall

**13:45 – 15:00**    **CAA DGs Briefing**

**15:00 – 15:30**    **Networking Break**

**15:30 – 16:30**    **Airlines CEOs Briefing**





- 15:00 – 15:30**      **Networking Break**
- 15:30 – 15:45**      **Speech: The Fundamentals for Safe, Efficient, And Sustainable Operations Throughout Africa**
- Speaker: Poppy Khoza  
Director General, South African Civil Aviation Authority
- 15:45 – 16:15**      **Panel: Can African Airports Keep Up with Rapid Growth in Aviation?**
- Moderator: Kashif Khalid -  
Regional Director OSS, IATA
- Speakers:  
Gerold Temulka - Chief Strategy Officer, Kenya Airways
- Abdoulaye Cisse - COO, Menzies Aviation
- Jason Schwabel - Regional Director Africa, Middle East & Asia – TSA
- Georges Touma - Head, Airports – SITA
- 16:15 – 16:45**      **Panel: Inspiring the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals**
- Moderator: Haya Zaidan  
Regional Communications Manager, Africa and Middle East, IATA
- Speakers:  
Fadimatou Noutchemo Simo  
Founder and President, Young African Aviation Professional Association (YAAPA)
- Félicité Kou-Nangue  
Program Officer, African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA)
- Kassie Yimam  
Managing Director, Ethiopian Aviation Academy
- Joep Ellers  
Airline Marketing Director – Africa, Airbus
- 19:00-21:00**      **Dinner Hosted by Ethiopian Airlines**





**Day 2 - 21 June, 2023**

**Main Hall  
SAATM, Sustainability, Retailing & Payments**

**Breakout Hall  
Operations, Safety & Security**

**09:00 – 09:45      Presentation: Intra-African Connectivity and Economics**

Speaker: Paulos Ashebir Lakew, Head of Industry Analysis, Sustainability & Economics, IATA

**09:45 – 10:30      Panel: IATA Support for SAATM**

Moderator: Somas Appavou Regional Director External Affairs & Sustainability, Africa, IATA

Speakers:  
Adefunke Adeyemi  
Secretary General, AFCAC

Aaron Munetsi  
CEO, AASA

Gaoussou Konate  
Consulting Director Technical and Operations, AFRAA

Edmund Makona  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Air Zimbabwe

**10:30 – 11:00      Networking Break**

**11:00 – 11:15      Presentation: Sustainable Aviation Fuel: Opportunities and Challenges in Africa**

Speaker: Alexander Kueper  
Vice President EMEA,  
Renewable Aviation, Neste

**11:15 – 11:30      Presentation: Flutterwave: Gateway of Choice to Africa**

Speaker: Yewande Apelehin,  
Business Development  
Manager, Flutterwave

**09:00 – 10:00      Panel: Establishing a Collaborative Safety Environment**

Moderator: Blessing Kavai  
Assistant Director Safety Programs (AME), IATA

Speakers:  
Gabriel Acosta  
Head of Operational Safety, IATA

Timothy L. Arel  
Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization, FAA

Akachi Iroezi  
Director, Global Safety & Regulatory Affairs Middle East & Africa, Boeing

Bisrat Dinssa  
Director- Group QMS, SMS, ERP & Compliance, Ethiopian Airlines

Cheikh Diop  
Project Leader Airbus Global Support Strategy for Africa (AGSSA), Airbus

Tariq M. Sugati  
Inspector / POI General Civil Aviation Authority, GACA KSA

**10:00 – 10:30      Presentation + Q&A: Aviation Security Overview**

Speaker: Hany Bakr - Senior Vice President, MedAire

**10:30 – 11:00      Networking Break**

**11:00 – 12:00      Presentation + Q&A: Passenger Experience – Biometrics and Security**

Speaker: Kashif Khalid, Regional Director, Operations, Safety & Security AME, IATA





**11:30 – 12:30**     **Panel: The Journey Towards Modern Airlines Retailing, Live!**

Moderator: Yanik Hoyles  
Director Distribution, IATA

Speakers:  
Julius Thairu  
Chief Commercial & Customer Officer, Kenya Airways

Lemma Yadecha  
Chief Commercial Officer, Ethiopian Airlines

Umesh Chhiber  
Senior VP Revenue, Retail and Cargo, Oman Air

**12:30 – 13:30**     **Lunch Break (60 minutes)**

**13:30 – 14:15**     **Presentation & Panel: Payments as an Integral Part of The Commercial Strategy**

Presentation: Manal Al-Taher  
Manager Financial & Distributions Services Products and Transformation, AME, IATA

Moderator: Javier Orejas  
Global Head Banking, IATA

Speakers:  
Efeh Amoah  
Head of Transaction Banking, Tanzania, Standard Chartered Bank

James Kanagwa  
Country Representative, Eco Bank

Michael Tsegaye  
A/Chief Wholesale Banking Officer, Zemen Bank

**14:15 – 15:00**     **Panel: Airlines and Distribution Partners -The Importance of Value Chain Collaboration**

Moderator: Manal Al-Taher  
Manager Financial & Distributions Services Products and Transformation, AME, IATA

**12:00 – 12:30**     **Panel: Creating A Data Rich Environment for Aviation Safety in Africa**

Moderator: Edward Jumi  
Senior Manager, Global Aviation Data Management, IATA

Speakers:  
Lawrence Amukono  
Chief, National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator, Kenya CAA

Hellen Ndichu  
Director Safety, RwandAir

**12:30 – 13:30**     **Lunch Break (60 minutes)**

**13:30 – 14:15**     **Panel: Aiming for a Solid Safety Foundation**

Moderator: Lindi-Lee Kirkman,  
Manager Operations ATM and Infrastructure AME, IATA

Speakers:  
Oscar Centeno, Training Deputy Officer, Group EAD

Roseline Mumbo, Vice President, IFAIMA

Christine Groos, Aviation Data Supplier Management Specialist, Boeing

Carsten Skrybeck, Source Liaison, Jeppesen / Boeing

**14:15 – 15:00**     **Panel: Operational Efficiency, Resilience, and Sustainability**

Moderator: Protus Seda  
Assistant Director Operations, ATM and Infrastructure Africa and Middle East, IATA

Speakers:  
Matthew Pwajok  
Director of Operations, NAMA

Simon Zwane  
Senior Manager ATM Planning and Research-ATNS, CANSO





**Speakers:**

Paula de Sousa  
Head of Airline Sales and  
Account Management Sub  
Saharan Africa, Amadeus

Jean-Vincent Teuler  
Vice President and RGM EMEA,  
Sabre

Özge Akinci  
Sales Manager, Hittit

Irene Mutungi  
Captain, Kenya Airways

Chris Michalakis  
Senior Flight Ops Representative,  
Delta Airlines

Fiona Omondi  
Head of Business Development &  
Projects, Tradewinds Aviation  
Services

**15:00 – 15:30      Networking Break**

**15:30 – 16:15      Let's hear it from you! Interactive session with the audience**  
**Kamil Alawadhi**

**16:15 – 16:30      Closing**





**Willie Walsh**  
**Director General**  
**IATA**

Willie Walsh became the eighth person to lead the International Air Transport Association (IATA) when he took on the role of Director General in April 2021.

Prior to joining IATA, Walsh spent his entire career in the airline industry, beginning as a cadet pilot with Aer Lingus in 1979 and rising to the position of Chief Executive at the airline in 2001. In 2005 he was appointed Chief Executive of British Airways (BA). He led BA through the 2008/09 global financial crisis, established a transatlantic joint business venture with Iberia, Finnair and American Airlines, and oversaw the 2011 merger of BA and Iberia under a newly established parent company, International Airlines Group (IAG). He was Chief Executive of IAG from its inception until September 2020.

Under Walsh's leadership, IATA has focused on supporting the industry's emergence from the COVID-19 crisis as well as aviation's ambitious and historic commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Walsh has also advocated for infrastructure partners to avoid recouping their COVID losses from their customers including airlines and air travelers.

Walsh is deeply familiar with IATA, having also served on the IATA Board of Governors between 2005 to 2018, including serving as Chair (2016-2017). A citizen of Ireland, Walsh was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1961. Walsh holds a Master of Science and Business Administration from Trinity College, Dublin.



**Mr. Dhenge Boru**  
**State Minister of Ethiopian Transport and Logistics**  
**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

Mr. Dhenge Boru is currently serving as the State Minister of Ethiopian Transport and Logistics, a position he assumed in April 2022. He brings a wealth of experience, having previously held the role of State Minister of Ethiopian Trade and Regional Integration and successfully led the Oromia Regional State Trade Bureau.

Throughout his career, he has held notable leadership positions within various government offices and actively contributed to political leadership within the party at multiple levels.

Furthermore, Mr. Dhenge Boru holds advanced degrees from different universities, showcasing his commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.





**Mesfin Tasew**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Ethiopian Airlines Group**

Mr. Mesfin Tasew was appointed as Group Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines in March 2022. He joined Ethiopian in 1984 as Associate Engineer and progressed through the ladder and served in supervisory and managerial positions in the Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering areas. In 1997 and 1999, he was appointed as Director Operations & Technical Systems Support and Chief Information Officer, respectively.

In 2006, he was appointed as Vice President of Maintenance and Engineering. Mr. Mesfin also served as Chief Operating Officer of Ethiopian Airlines from 2010 – 2021, and Chief Executive Officer of ASKY Airlines from April 2021 to March 2022. Mr. Mesfin also serves as a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors. He holds BSc and MSc Degrees in Electrical Engineering from Addis Ababa University. He also holds Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Open University in the UK.



**Timothy Arel**  
**Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization**  
**FAA**

Timothy L. Arel is responsible for ensuring safe, efficient and secure air traffic services for approximately 50,000 aircraft operating every day over nearly 30 million square miles across the National Airspace System (NAS).

Mr. Arel provides leadership and guidance to more than 35,000 employees and oversees the daily operation of the ATO, an organization made up of air traffic controllers, technicians, engineers, pilots and a host of other technical and support personnel who provide services as part of eight service units: Air Traffic Services, Technical Operations, System Operations, Safety and Technical Training, Mission Support Services, Management Services, Flight Programs Operations and the Program Management Organization. Throughout his 33-year career with the FAA, Mr. Arel has developed expertise in air traffic safety, resource management and labor relations and training.

Prior to being named ATO Chief Operating Officer in October 2022, he served as Deputy COO from 2017-2022, overseeing domestic air traffic operations and managing the ATO Officer's Group, the organization's executive leadership team. Mr. Arel's previous leadership roles in the ATO include Director of Safety, Deputy Vice President of Safety and Technical Training and Vice President of Air Traffic Services.

He is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society and the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government's Driving Government Performance.





**Adefunke Adeyemi**  
**Secretary General**  
**African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)**

Adefunke Adeyemi was elected and appointed the Secretary-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) resuming office on 1st September, 2022. AFCAC is the Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) on all Civil Aviation matters and the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

Her role is to promote Safety, Security, Air Transport Liberalization, Environmental protection and overall sustainability of the African Air Transport sector across the continent.

With an international career spanning over 20 years, Adefunke is recognized as one of the 50 Most Inspirational Nigerian Women. She was recently honoured as one of the 200 globally Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) in affiliation with the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent. She is also the 2021 Recipient of the Ato Girma Wake Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to African Air Transport and Trade development.

She studied Law at the University of Lagos, Nigeria and qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Nigerian Supreme Court in 1998, holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the prestigious University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Nanyang Business School, Singapore in collaboration with Wharton Business School, Philadelphia and Berkeley Hass Business Business School, California.



**Marie Owens-Thomson**  
**Senior Vice-President Sustainability and Chief Economist**  
**IATA**

Marie joined IATA in 2022 as Chief Economist. In January 2023 Marie added the responsibility for IATA's Environment and Sustainability activities to her Chief Economist role, and joined the Management Committee as Senior Vice President.

Marie joined IATA from Lombard Odier where she was Head of Global Trends and Sustainability. Her 30-year professional life includes roles for both investment banks and private banks, including HSBC in London, Merrill Lynch in Paris, and Indosuez in Geneva. Outside of the financial sector Marie worked for IKEA, and she also founded and managed her own company in the equine industry.

Marie holds an MBA from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. She speaks Swedish, English, and French fluently.





**Kamil Alawadhi**  
**Regional Vice President, Africa and Middle East**  
**IATA**

Kamil is Regional Vice-President for Africa and Middle East (AME), one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing regions in aviation. Kamil represents IATA in 68 countries, serving 57 airlines across AME.

He leads the execution of IATA's global strategic priorities at the regional level and advocates on behalf of industry to maintain global safety levels, enhance connectivity particularly across Africa, to reduce costs for airlines and to ensure the sustainability of air transport in the region.

He works hand in hand with regional partners such as AFRAA, AFCAC, AACO, ACAO and ICAO regional offices towards the advancement of air transport as a social and economic enabler and driver in the region.

Prior to joining IATA, Kamil was the CEO of Kuwait Airways and held various key positions at the airline in the areas of safety, security, quality management and enterprise resource planning over his 31-year career in the aviation industry.

A national of Kuwait, Al-Awadhi holds an MBA in Aerospace Management from the Toulouse Business School and an Engineering degree in Aircraft Maintenance Management from Air Service Training (AST) in the UK.



**Aaron Munetsi**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AASA**

Aaron Munetsi currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer at AASA. Prior to joining AASA, he held several commercial management positions at South African Airways, including Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East and as its Acting Chief Commercial Officer.

For 10 years, he served on the board of Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Business, and after leaving SAA in 2018 he joined the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) for a stint as its Director: Government, Legal and Industry Affairs. For the past year he has been working as an aeropolitical and business strategy advisor to airlines.

Aaron holds diplomas and certificates in marketing, strategic management and leadership from the University of Zimbabwe, University of Witwatersrand Graduate Business School and the Gordon Institute for Business Studies.





**Abderahmane Berthé**  
**Secretary General**  
**African Airlines Association (AFRAA)**

Mr. Berthe was the CEO of Air Mali and Air Burkina. He has 33 years' experience in airline industry and a total of 16 years as an airline CEO.

Mr. Berthe built his career in various Airlines and multicultural environments both in Europe and Africa at positions such as aircraft performance and dispatch engineering, maintenance and operations quality, ground operations and Chief Executive Officer.

Abdérachmane is graduated from:

- French Civil Aviation school in Toulouse (1987 Master of Science degree).
- French Aeronautical and Space school in Toulouse (1988 Master of Science degree)
- Business Institute in Toulouse (1989 Master degree)

He also obtained a Private Pilot License in 1985 for Single Engine Aircrafts.



**Sandile Chipunza**  
**Manager, External Affairs & Sustainability – Africa**  
**IATA**

Sandile Chipunza is IATA's Manager – External Affairs & Sustainability - Africa and is based in Johannesburg, South Africa. His responsibilities include ensuring that IATA's members' priorities and needs are met, implementing IATA policies and promoting its products and services to contribute to meeting Industry expectations as set out by IATA's Board and Leadership.

Central to this role is solid Advocacy for the value that Aviation contributes to the African Continent and also contributes expertise in Aviation Industry solutions.

Prior to taking up the role of Manager – External Affairs & Sustainability – Africa, Sandile was Manager, Advocacy & Strategic Relations, Africa from being an Aviation Solutions Manager for Southern Africa. Before IATA, Sandile was with Airlink as a Regional Manager - Africa for seven years, after also spending seven years with SAA setting up new SAA managed operations in Zimbabwe and Zambia. He has over 25 years' experience in both Aviation and Travel & Tourism Sectors.

Sandile holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Managements from the University of South Africa and also holds various Diplomas with IATA.





**Farah Mesmar**  
**Regional Manager for Environment & Sustainability, AME**  
**IATA**

Farah is the Regional Manager for Environment and Sustainability in the Africa and Middle East Region at IATA, where she focuses on the decarbonization agenda of the aviation industry and advancing global sustainability. Her advocacy work involves collaborating with policy makers, international associations, and airlines across 67 states in AME. Farah's expertise lies in analyzing and developing policy positions to address a broad range of sustainability concerns related to the industry's overarching goal of achieving Net-Zero emissions by 2050. She is also extensively involved in several environmental initiatives including long-term emission reduction pathways, sustainable aviation fuels, environmental management systems, and the implementation of the ICAO Global Market-Based Measure (CORSIA). Beyond her professional work, Farah has also been recognized for her contributions to Sustainable Development. She was selected to speak at the UN General Assembly's Major Group for Children and Youth in 2015 and was later nominated as a United Nations Young Leader. Farah has received numerous academic awards such as the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship, in which she earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Legal Studies. She was also recently awarded a scholarship to pursue an Executive Program in Climate Change Policy and Law, furthering her commitment to creating a more sustainable future to all.



**Nomasonto Ndlovu**  
**Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**South African Tourism**

Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer Nomasonto Ndlovu  
 Nomasonto Ndlovu is South African Tourism's (SA Tourism) Chief Operations Officer. She is also acting in the role of Chief Executive Officer, since 7 May 2023.

Prior to this, she was employed by Transnet in the capacity of Executive Manager: Tourism, Heritage and Hospitality, a role she has occupied since November 2020 where she was responsible for heading up the newly established Tourism, Heritage & Hospitality Business unit. Prior to joining Transnet, Nomasonto was at the helm of the Limpopo Tourism Agency in the position of Chief Executive Officer.

She has held various other leadership positions in the tourism sector including her role as Global Manager: Business Tourism when she was previously at SA Tourism between 2008 and 2012, before joining the City of Tshwane as Strategic Executive Director of Communications, Marketing & Events.

She is a seasoned Marketing and Tourism Expert with diverse experience gained from both private and public sector organisations including Unilever, Standard Bank, and Kwa Zulu-Natal Tourism Authority.





**Francis Mwangi**  
**Environmental Expert/Senior Planning Officer**  
**Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA)**

Francis Mwangi is an Environmental Expert/Senior Planning Officer at Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), ICAO CAEP Member for Kenya and Second National Focal Point on Aviation GHG Emission reduction, CORSIA and Climate Change initiatives in Kenya since 2015.

Mr Mwangi is also currently a Ph.D. Researcher in Applied Economics at Hasselt University, Belgium. He holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics (First Class Honours); M.Sc. (Finance); M.A. (Economics) all from University of Nairobi; hold a CPA (K); hold a Certificate in Sustainable Aviation from Manchester Metropolitan University and Certificate in Airport Green House Gas (GHG) Management from Incheon Airport Aviation Academy and Certificate in Civil Aviation Management from Singapore Academy.

Francis is an environmental expert who has been extensively involved in the development and implementation of Kenya Aviation Action Plan on CO2 gas reduction, which was submitted to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in December 2015 and September 2022. He has actively participated in High Level ICAO environmental meetings/seminar and workshops in Montreal Canada and Germany and is currently the ICAO CAEP Member for Kenya. He is also a Panel Member in ICAO Aviation Data and Analysis Panel (ADAP) since 2014 to date, where he has actively participated in the review of the ICAO Statistics Programme, development of methodologies to collect, process and developing long term aviation data forecasts for the World.



**Abel Alemu**  
**Managing Director**  
**Ethiopian Cargo & Logistic Services**

Mr. Abel Alemu, Managing Director Ethiopian Cargo & Logistic Services, the leading African cargo carrier, joined the Airline industry as Assistant Marketing Officer in December of 2007. Since then, he has been serving in different positions, including Sr Sales Representative, Manager Cargo Sales Office - Addis Ababa, Cargo Manager - Gulf and Regional Manager for Southern Africa.

In November 2021, Mr. Abel Alemu appointed as Managing Director for Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services to head the whole Ethiopian Cargo Operation worldwide.

Mr Abel has B.A Degree in Economics from University of Gondar, M.A in Marketing Management from Addis Ababa University and an M.Sc. in Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) from the University of Mississippi.





**Kashif Khalid**  
**Regional Director, Operations, Safety & Security – AME**  
**IATA**

Kashif Khalid is currently leading the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) industry activities and projects in the Middle East & Africa region providing leadership and guidance to Airlines, Airports, ANSP's, Civil Aviation Authorities, Security Agencies and Governments to further develop IATA's mission, projects and advocacy initiatives. With a core focus on the Airports, Passenger Experience and Global Facilitation programs.

Formerly he was Head - Assets & Acquisitions at Abu Dhabi Airports, managing the Global M&A function for the Government entity as well as the development, modernization, and operations strategy of the Airports portfolio. Which included multi-billion dollar infrastructure investment and development programs, including Abu Dhabi's crowning jewel, the iconic 700,000 sqm Midfield Terminal Building (MTB).

He has advised global Governments and Airport Investors/Operators on both Greenfield and brownfield redevelopment projects, Operations & Management programs, privatizations, public private partnerships and associated infrastructure planning, development, and concessions.

Earlier on in his career he has had the privilege of holding several senior executive positions with Dubai Government, the Abu Dhabi Sovereign Wealth Fund, Citi and British Airways.

Kashif graduated Magna Cum Laude from New York in International Business & Economics and holds an MS-IB as well. His professional credentials include an advanced diploma in Airport Planning and Finance, IAP – International Airports Professional and the ACI - Airport Executive Leadership program (AELP).



**Yanik Hoyles**  
**Director, Industry Distribution Programs**  
**IATA**

Yanik joined IATA in May 2011 where he was accountable for leading and coordinating the development of new solutions and new Industry services.

He has over 25 year's airline experience, most of which at British Airways where he began as Senior Manager Revenue Management in 1996 and then held several positions as Area Commercial Manager overseas.

He has been leading the New Distribution Capability Program since July 2013 and in January 2021 he was appointed as Director, Distribution which covers the broader scope of Airline Retailing, including driving the adoption of industry standards such as NDC and ONE Order for example.





**Umesh Chhiber**  
**Senior Vice President Revenue, Retail & Cargo**  
**Oman Air**

Umesh is a Revenue Management 'lifer'. His airline journey started with KLM in 1995 and included various roles in RM. In 2008, Umesh moved to Etihad and then to Malaysia Airlines in 2012 before finally moved to Oman Air in 2017.

In his current role as SVP for Revenue, Retail and Cargo, he manages the revenue lines for both passengers and cargo. Additionally, Umesh has played an active role as part of IATA's Distribution Council since 2021.



**Poppy Khoza**  
**Director General**  
**South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)**

Ms. Poppy Khoza has over 20 years' experience in the civil aviation with 18 years in senior management. Ms Khoza was reappointed for a second five-year term as Director of Civil Aviation (CEO) at the SACAA, effective from 01 December 2018. She is the first woman to have occupied this position since the inception of the SACAA. Some of her notable milestones at the helm of the SACAA include unanimously being elected by the ICAO Member States to serve as the first woman President for the 41st ICAO Assembly in the 78 years of ICAO's existence.

Under her stewardship, the SACAA scooped the Best Performing Institution in Transport Award on four (4) occasions. The SACAA achieved nine clean audits over ten financial years and received six awards from the Auditor-General of South Africa for clean audit outcomes. The entity recognised as the Top Performing Public Service and was also declared a Winner in the category of Investing in People. Furthermore, the SACAA was recognised as a Transformation Champion at the Oliver Top Empowerment Awards.

She has championed the transformation of the SACAA, and it now boasts 50% capable women Executives and 51% female employees in the organisation. Under Ms Khoza's leadership, the SACAA continues to make strides in improving aviation safety and security in South Africa as witnessed in the recent ICAO Safety Audit.





**Gerold Tumulka**  
**Chief Strategy & Innovation**  
**Kenya Airways**

Energetic and driven C-level executive with comprehensive accomplishments leading airport and airline services, growth, cost control, flight and ground operations, fleet management, safety, regulatory compliance, operational turnaround, and matrix cross-functional teams to achieve goals. Innovative thinker with strong Middle East (13 years), Asia, Africa, and European airline and airport industry acumen. Demonstrated success in developing and executing plans in complex, fast-paced, highly regulated environments. Manage air transportation from all angles. Develops and implements impactful strategies by analyzing details to understand competitors, emerging trends, and board and stakeholder relationships. Organized, creative problem-solver who excels at guiding teams through challenging, agile projects. Lead €130M budgets, 47M passenger airports, operating at C-level Executive and Board of Directors.



**Abdoulaye Cisse**  
**Head of Operations, Middle East, Africa & Asia**  
**Menzies Aviation**

Abdoulaye Cisse has over 35 years of experience in the aviation industry mainly in ground handling and other aviation operations fields in Africa. He is currently Head of Operations MEAA at Menzies Aviation where he is responsible for the detailed performance, leadership, and management of all operational activities across the region. His focus is on delivering safe and secure operations for customers and colleagues, working within Menzies global safety, security, and compliance framework.

Prior to this role, Cisse joined National Aviation Services in March 2016 as General Manager, Cote d'Ivoire, handling operations, functions, personnel, and business development in the country. Under his leadership, NAS Abidjan also received its first IATA Safety Audit of Ground Operations (ISAGO) certification. In 2018, Cisse was promoted to Group COO Ground Handling & Cargo Services, responsible for driving efficiency in its ground handling and cargo operations where he focused on maintaining high levels of quality and customer service across the network.

Cisse also Chaired the Board of NAS Colossal Aviation Services (NCAS) in South Africa and currently serves on the Board of Directors of NAS subsidiaries in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mozambique, Uganda, India and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Cisse holds a License Certificate Specialization in American Civilization and Literature from the University of Dakar and has several professional certifications to his credit.





**Jason E Schwabel**  
**Regional Director, Africa, Middle East and Central Asia**  
**Transportation Security Administration (TSA)**

Jason currently serves at US Embassy Nairobi, Kenya as TSA's Regional Director for Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. His region consists of 78 countries with 23 Last Point of Departure (LPD) Airports. Jason also serves as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) attaché for Kenya.

Jason has over 35 years' experience as a security professional and is a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES). Jason joined TSA in 2011, bringing with him over 26 years of military experience focusing on security, counterterrorism, and international partnerships.



**Georges Touma**  
**Business Development, Senior Manager**  
**SITA, MEA**

Georges is currently responsible for Airports & Airlines Business Development in the East and South African Subregions. His main objective is to create new growth opportunities for SITA across these territories. Prior to this, Georges was leading the business development of SITA's Master Systems Integration for the Middle East and Africa.

With 18 years of experience in the Information and Communication Technology and a specific focus on the Air Transport Industry, Georges has gained significant experience in helping Airports and Airlines use technology to simplify passengers' processes, enhance baggage management, and optimize airport operations.

Before joining SITA in 2010, Georges held several positions including NOC team leader for a major telco operator in the GCC and senior support engineer for a network and systems integrator in the middle east region.

Georges holds an Executive MBA from Dauphine-Paris, a Bachelor of Engineering in Telecommunications & Networks from St Joseph University-Beirut, and several industry certifications.





**Haya Zaidan**  
**Regional Communications Manager, AME**  
**IATA**

Haya is a communications professional working in one of the most dynamic industries – aviation. She is currently IATA’s Regional Communications Manager for Africa and Middle East (AME). She holds a BA in International Development and Globalization and a MA in Public and International Affairs from the University of Ottawa and speaks English, Arabic and French. Before joining IATA, Haya worked for Global Affairs Canada in the areas of political and public affairs, advocacy and communications.

Haya is passionate about human rights, women empowerment and environmental sustainability. She is a founding member of Women in History Jordan, a non-profit campaign to highlight the role of women in history and promote women empowerment in Jordan. When Haya is not busy communicating with the aviation industry, she is practicing and teaching yoga.



**Fadimatou Noutchemo Simo**  
**Founder and President**  
**Young African Aviation Professional Association (YAAPA)**

Fadimatou NOUTCHEMO SIMO is Founder and President of the YOUNG AFRICAN AVIATION PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (YAAPA) and HEFA Group her aviation and tourism consultancy firm.

Currently Country Director of AFRIJET BUSINESS SERVICES for Cameroon she is winner of the IATA High Flyer Award 2019, the Commonwealth point of light 2019 and the AFCAC Recognition certificate for promoting the industry to the next generation of aviation professionals. She also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and an IATA diploma for airline management.

She founded YAAPA in 2014 a nonprofit organization to educate youths through communication on aviation careers, as well as create a platform of exchange between the aviation stakeholders and the next generation of aviation professionals in Africa to meet up with the future demand of skilled workers in the industry.

Her team and her work to support all aviation related projects from industry organizations as the African Union, ICAO, IATA, AFCAC, AFRAA, AATO in raising awareness to ensure continuity and involvement of all. YAAPA looks forward to launch its Youth Aviation Tech Africa Program as well as its community centers to promote aviation to facilitate tourism amongst the Next generation of Young Africans to ensure no country is left Behind.





**Félicité Kou-Nangue**

**Program Officer**

**African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA)**

Mantar Kou-Nangue Félicité graduated with honors from the Université Générale Lansana Conte in Sonfonia (Guinee Conakry) with a Master's degree in Sociology. After working as a Manager in Good Neighbors International's Sponsorship Department, she joined the African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) in 2016 as part of the African Union's Young Volunteers Program, which empowers and deploys young Africans within the AUC and in partner organizations. At the completion of her volunteer year, she continued to work as a Program Officer to help with program implementation.

She is a passionate advocate for girls' education and women's empowerment. Recognizing the transformative power of education, she firmly believes in providing equal opportunities for girls to access quality education, breaking the barriers that hinder their progress. Through her work at the African Union/CIEFFA, she champions the rights of girls and women, striving to create an inclusive and empowering environment where their voices are heard and their potential is fully realized.



**Kassie Yimam**

**Managing Director**

**Ethiopian Aviation Academy**

Mr. Kassie Yimam joined Ethiopian Airlines on January 26, 1995 as Junior Aircraft Technician and served the Airline in various positions including A/C Technician, Senior Aircraft Technician, Technical Instructor at the Pilot Training School, Course Developer, Manager Curriculum Development and e-learning Solutions, Head Training Standards and Development and Acting Managing Director Ethiopian Aviation Academy.

He is currently serving as Managing Director Ethiopian Aviation Academy as of January 01, 2023.

He is a graduate from Aviation Maintenance Technicians School of Ethiopian Aviation Academy and holds a Master of Business Administration in Business Management and BA degree in Economics both from Addis Ababa University.





**Joep Ellers**  
**Airline Marketing Director – Africa**  
**Airbus**

After graduating from Queen Mary and Westfield College (University of London) with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, Joep continued his studies at Cranfield University (UK) where he completed a Master's degree in Aerospace Vehicle Design in 1993.

He joined Airbus for a six-month internship in 1994, working in the Future Projects Department analysing emergency evacuation aspects of the then A3XX, the precursor to today's A380. He then began his career at Airbus in the Marketing Department, initially in the A330 / A340 Product Marketing Group.

After three years, Joep transferred to Airline Marketing where over the years he has held a variety of positions and geographical responsibility. In July 2008 he took over responsibility for leading Airbus's marketing activity in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2020 this responsibility was expanded to include the entire African continent.



**Paulos Ashebir Lakew**  
**Head of Industry Analysis, Sustainability & Economics**  
**IATA**

Paulos Ashebir Lakew is the Head of Industry Analysis at IATA, Sustainability & Economics, where he leads economic research and forecast development efforts to enhance IATA's advocacy and member support initiatives. Previously,

Paulos held consulting positions at Steer Group and Unison Consulting, overseeing advisory services for various airport and toll road projects. With experience supporting over 25 hub airports in the US and Canada, Paulos is an expert in strategic planning, economic analysis, and traffic forecast development. Before his consulting roles, he worked as a transportation economist and policy advisor at the California Air Resources Board.





**Somas Appavou**  
**Regional Director External Affairs & Sustainability, Africa**  
**IATA**

Mr. Somas APPAVOU is currently the Regional Director External Affairs & Sustainability at IATA and based in Nairobi, Kenya. Before joining IATA in 2022, Somas was the Project Leader at Airborne Capital Ltd supporting both the Conversion and Financing of Passenger Aircraft into Freighter (P2F). From 2017 to 2020, Somas was the CEO of Air Mauritius. From 2009 to 2017, he held the position of Senior Sales Director, Middle East and Africa at Airbus.

He has more than 25 years of experience in the aviation industry, having worked in key global markets. He holds a M.Phil. Degree in Aerospace and Air Transport Economics from l'Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile' and University of Toulouse (France) as well as a Master Degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Bordeaux (France). Somas was appointed Member of the Executive Committee of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) following the election of Air Mauritius to represent the East African region for a period of three years. He has also been elected on the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association in 2020 (IATA).



**Gaoussou Konate**  
**Consulting Director Technical and Operations**  
**African Airlines Association (AFRAA)**

Graduate Engineer in Mechanical Engineering at the French "Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon," Mr. Gaoussou Konate is an aviation sector expert with over 40 years of experience. Since January 2019, Gaoussou has been the Consulting Director Technical and Operations department of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

His accountabilities cover engineering, flight, ground operations, safety, and security support, including airport and air navigation tax, fees, charges, joint projects (MRO, line maintenance, fuel procurement, consultancy services), training, and air transport. As a nine-month consultant at the AfDB, Gaoussou helped coordinate and collaborated on developing the Bank's framework and guidelines to support the African aviation sector. Before that, he developed his professional and managerial skills in international aviation organizations such as ICAO (Deputy Regional Director (Western and Central Africa (WACAF) and IATA (AFI Regional Director SO&I). At IATA, he was responsible for the Safety, Operations, and Infrastructure Department (Africa & Indian Ocean – AFI).

Gaoussou played a pivotal role in the identification of the Abuja Safety Targets. IATA presented Gaoussou with a platinum plate for his achievement in Africa. He initiated the championship approach in State assistance in ICAO SARPS implementation, and WACAF became the first ICAO Region without Significant Safety Concerns (SSC) during his tenure.





**Edmund Makona**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Air Zimbabwe**

Ambassador Edmund Makona is the current Acting Chief Executive Officer of Air Zimbabwe and also the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) Single African Air Transport Market Pilot Implementation Project (SAATM PIP) Ambassador for the Southern Region of Africa. At the time of his appointment in April 2023 with a mandate to stabilise and realign Air Zimbabwe operations as an interim A/CEO, he was the Deputy Chair of the Air Zimbabwe Board. A top-level aviation Executive with almost four decades of experience. Further he is an international aviation consultant with aeronautical engineering background, type rated licenced engineer, aviation quality, safety and security and trainer for aircraft engineers and pilots ground school. Formerly a CEO of Air Zimbabwe who successfully re-launched the Airline in 2013 and left in 2016, he is a firm believer in the African Aviation Renaissance which he code named AAR. Edmund also served as President of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and as an independent consultant for IATA and AFRAA on various African airlines missions to which he is still actively involved in.



**Alexander Kueper**  
**Vice President EMEA, Renewable Aviation**  
**Neste**

Alexander started his career in 1998 as a lawyer. He spent part of his legal training at the German Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, which has sparked a lifelong interest and numerous visits in the African continent.

After working as a lawyer in a big law firm in Germany for a couple of years, he decided to follow his passion for aviation and joined Deutsche Lufthansa AG as Manager Fuel Purchasing in 2001. He also served as Director of Lufthansa's own fuel company, DLH Fuel Company mbH, from 2004.

He later joined Shell Aviation, where he was responsible for Shell Aviation's airport operations in Western and Central Europe and served as a director in several airport fueling joint ventures.

Alexander was appointed CEO/Managing Director of AFS Aviation Fuel Services GmbH in 2011, one of the leading fuel service providers in Europe. He worked at IATA as Director Fuel from January 2020, where he was responsible for fuel related matters, including the ramp-up of SAF.

In early 2023, he was appointed Vice President Europe, Middle East & Africa, Renewable Aviation, at Neste. Alexander is a German national born in Colombia and is married with one son. He studied law in Mainz and London and holds a Master in European Law.





**Yewande Apelehin**  
**Business Development Manager**  
**Flutterwave**

Yewande Apelehin is the Lead, Travel & Hospitality Vertical at Flutterwave. She has 10+ years of progressive experience in the financial services industry working across Retail, Commercial and Corporate Banking before joining Flutterwave Inc. to build and scale market-defining technology products.

Yewande holds an MSc. in Project Management from the University of Northumbria, United Kingdom and an undergraduate degree in Chemistry.

Yewande is a strategic thinker who executes with every sense of efficiency. The quality of her decisions constantly affirms her expansive capacity, a wealth of experience in payments as well as in managing high growth teams.

She is equipped with exceptional leadership ability, business development and relationship management. She approaches every business engagement from a deep sense of value.



**Lemma Yadecha**  
**Chief Commercial Officer**  
**Ethiopian Airlines Group**

Mr. Lemma joined Ethiopian on September 06, 1999 and has served the Airline for 23 years in different Senior Management positions including Area Manager Burkina Faso, Area Manager Malaysia, Area Manager France, Director Global Call Center, and Managing Director Ethiopian International Services.

Currently, he is serving Ethiopian as Chief Commercial Officer since April 12, 2022. As Chief Commercial Officer, he heads and directs the development and coordination of Sales, Services and Operation of all International and Domestic Flights, Ethiopian Airlines Group activities and objectives, policies, procedures, plans and programs. Directs and Controls the company's individual and corporate passenger sales, ticketing, reservations, and passenger services activities at all overseas locations of Ethiopian Airlines, all over the planet Establishes revenue targets and evaluate its implementation.

Oversees the administrative and sales support staff to ensure that the required assistance and support is in place, including customer-oriented schedules, products, pricing are established and efficient administrative, promotional and distribution support are provided for sales offices to achieve their revenue target.

He holds BSC Degree in Civil Engineering from Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Technology, MSC in Geotechnical Engineering from Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Technology and MSC in Integrated Marketing Communication from University of Mississippi, USA.





**Julius Thairu**  
**Chief Commercial & Customer Officer**  
**Kenya Airways**

Julius joined Kenya Airways in 2001 and is currently Chief Commercial & Customer Officer responsible for strategy development and execution of revenue and customer initiatives. He has extensive international commercial experience in delivering growth and improving performance in the aviation industry having worked in various roles across three continents. Prior to his current role, he was Director for Sales responsible for development and implementation of the global Commercial sales strategy. He was also Head of Pricing, Revenue Management and Distribution June 2009 to May 2014.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Building Economics from the University of Nairobi and has attended various management and leadership courses, including the Executive Development Programme with Gordon Business School, South Africa.



**Manal Al-Taher**  
**Regional Manager, Transformation & Products, Financial Settlement & Distribution Services**  
**IATA**

Manal Al-Taher joined IATA in 2011. Based in the Regional office in Amman.

In her current role as the Regional Manager, Transformation & Products, covering 67 countries across Africa and Middle East, she manages various industry Distribution and Payment Programs along with different products that provide the aviation industry with the means to save, improve, innovate and sustain its businesses and financial health such as Modern Airline Retailing, IATA Payment Programs, and IATA Financial Gateway IFG.

Manal has 12 years of extensive experience in the aviation industry and is recognized as a subject matter expert in retailing, payment systems, and digital transformation and Agency Management Program

Manal is fluent in Arabic and English and holds a Bachelor of Money, Banking and Customs from Beirut Arab University, Lebanon.





**Javier Orejas**  
**Global Head of Banking and IATA Pay**  
**IATA**

Javier is the Global Head of Banking and IATA Pay at IATA (International Air Transport Association). He holds a Master's degree in Law and Business administration from the Complutense University of Madrid. A Pre-Doctorate in Law, MBA and a Master's degree in finance and banking direction among others.

In his current role, Javier is responsible for designing and leading new Cash management and payments operations that support airlines' financial health and enable IATA to make its financial services cheaper, faster, and safer. Prior to IATA, Javier held various positions at Accenture in the area of strategic banking consulting.



**Dr. James Kanagwa**  
**Country Representative (Ethiopia)**  
**ECOBANK Group**

A Pan African Executive with an extensive background in Project Management, Finance, Strategy and General Aviation. His professional experience includes more than 24 years of Commercial Banking, Corporate Development (M & A), consulting, strategic studies, General Aviation and Risk management. Currently he is the Country Representative (Ethiopia) for ECOBANK Group; previously he was a Senior Executive, ECOBANK Uganda responsible for Domestic Business including Government Institutions. Prior to that he was a Corporate Development officer (Project Manager), East & Southern Africa sub region for ECOBANK Group, whose mandate was to assist with the setting up of the Bank in the sub region.

James holds a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) from Walden University, USA, an MBA degree from ESAMI Business School, a BCOM degree from Panjab University INDIA, a Post Graduate Diploma in Innovation & Design, MIT SLOAN USA, a Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Business from Columbia University, USA and a Diploma in National Security from Galilee Institute ISRAEL. He is an alumnus of HARVARD Kennedy School, USA, INSEAD, FRANCE, Wharton School USA, CSCI SINGAPORE, GE Crotonville USA, after having completed Executive education. He is an FAA licensed Pilot in Command (Capt.) for medium aircrafts, Fellow Chartered Banker (FCBI) UK and a Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society UK.





**Efeh Amoah**  
**Head of Transaction Banking**  
**Tanzania**

Voted by Angaza Awards as one of the top 10 women to watch in banking, finance, and investment in Africa, Efeh Amoah is one of Standard Chartered Bank's senior business leaders in Africa. Whilst currently based in Tanzania, her banking career has spanned Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroun, and other West African markets over the last 22 years. With a background in product management and service, she has worked with clients across multiple countries and industries to build and maintain cash management solutions for their Africa operations.

Her passion for bringing technology and business solutions together currently extends beyond Standard Chartered Bank into the Tanzania market where she works with various fintech ecosystem leaders, building capacity in Tanzania's young fintech companies. Efeh is a speaker and life mentor with a strong emphasis on developing and supporting female talent both in and out of Standard Chartered Bank. She sits on Standard Chartered Bank's global Diversity and Inclusion council, working to leverage and enhance the bank's rich talent diversity for the benefit of both her colleagues and the bank overall.



**Michael Tsegaye**  
**A/Chief Wholesale Banking Officer**  
**Zemen Bank**

Mr. Michael joined Zemen Bank's Marketing team in 2012 as a Business Development officer. Prior to Zemen, Michael's career started at a Private Website Development company as a sales associate where he managed key customer accounts and sales activities. Michael then briefly moved to join Ethiopian Airlines after successfully graduating from the Aviation Academy (School of Marketing) and being assigned as an Agent at the Bole International Airport.

Michael has worked at different capacities within Zemen Bank including as a senior officer, Division Manager for Promotion and Public Relations and Fund manager. At his latest placement as a Fund Manager, he led a program designed at stimulating private equity investment into Ethiopian Private Sector and in his capacity as the Director for Corporate & Institutional Banking, Michael oversees portfolio of clients having sizable transaction with the Bank. Michael is a graduate of Business Management from Mekelle University and is currently a finalist conducting thesis for an MSC in Finance and Investment. Michael's strength in strategy development/execution, people management, relationship management and portfolio management is an asset to the Bank. He is passionate about adding value to Customers and enjoys interaction with Customers.





**Paula de Sousa**  
**Head of Airline Sales and Account Management Sub-Saharan Africa**  
**Amadeus**

Paula has a passion for the airline business with over 27 years of airline experience. She started her career in South African Airways. During this time Paula gained a wide breadth of experience in various areas from performing active roles in the management, evaluation, negotiation and the implementation of codeshares, alliances, loyalty, revenue accounting and passenger services systems, outsourcing and then re-insourcing of SAA's IT department.

Paula further expanded her experience by joining a locally based startup carrier responsible for fully establishing its IT strategy and environment.

Paula joined Amadeus in 2017 and currently is the company's Head of Airline Sales and Account Management for Sub Saharan Africa, based in Johannesburg. She is a Portuguese and South African national and holds an MBA from Henley Business School University of Reading.



**Jean-Vincent Teuler**  
**Vice President, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA)**  
**Sabre Travel Solutions**

Jean-Vincent Teuler brings about 20 years of technology and airline industry leadership to his role of Vice President, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) for Sabre Travel Solutions.

Jean-Vincent leads Sabre's airline business in EMEA, a key growth region for the company. He is tasked with growing the company's revenue and customer base in the region and maintaining successful and trusted partnerships with existing airline customers.

Before his current appointment, and through his 12 years at Sabre, he was overseeing all strategic airline customer engagements in Europe.

Prior to Sabre, Jean-Vincent worked in a variety of customer-facing roles including commercial and account management, product management, e-Commerce and technology and services account management for the airline industry. He holds an Engineering and Project Manager master's degree from Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris, France.

Jean-Vincent lives in France and appreciates the opportunity to be out on ski resorts, traveling as well as spending time at home with his family.





**Özge Akıncı**  
**Sales Manager**  
**Hitit**

Özge has joined Hitit in 2016 as Sales Manager. She is involved in partnership discovery and establishment as well as pre-sales Management, contributing to brand and account Management.

Özge's earlier experience includes one of the world's best airlines, Qatar Airways where she worked for 6 years, in different departments including sales.



**Blessing Kawai**  
**Assistant Director IATA Safety Programs – AME**  
**IATA**

Based in Johannesburg, Blessing as Assistant Director, Safety Programs – Africa & Middle is responsible for driving IATA's strategic safety initiatives and implementing safety enhancement programs across the region. He is also a Steering Committee Member + Vice Chairman of ICAO Regional Aviation Safety Group for Africa & Indian Ocean (RASG AFI) and from inception has chaired the Safety Support Team (SST) responsible for producing the RASG-AFI Annual Safety reports to date.

Previously served three consecutive terms as Secretary General of Africa Aviation Safety Council (AFRASCO) from 2000- 2006 and was the first Chairman of the AFI Safety Enhancement Team (ASET) from 2005-2007). He has experience spanning just over three (3) decades in the areas Aircraft Engineering (Avionics), Aviation Quality Auditing and Safety Management having spent the first 18 years in the airline operational environment and the last 15 with IATA.

Blessing speaks English, Shona, some French, and holds Higher Diplomas in Aircraft Maintenance & Engineering, Safety Management, Bachelors in Transport Management, and in Logistics (University of South Africa) and Safety Management (University of Southern California).

Outside aviation Blessing loves everything fitness from long distance running, racewalking & cycling where he collected a few medals. Also loves watching high speed motor sport particularly motorcycling racing – a discipline he did in his early 20s and earned him a couple of scars.





**Gabriel Acosta**  
**Global Head Operational Safety**  
**IATA**

Mr. Gabriel Acosta is a senior aviation professional with 22 years of experience in safety management, auditing and quality management, safety data sharing and analysis solutions, international operations and regulations, and education in the aviation industry. He has demonstrated ability to lead individuals, groups, and organizations in accomplishing complex tasks and achieving difficult goals. He serves as the IATA representative to the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan, the United Nations aviation technical group tasked to set the global aviation safety strategy. Mr. Acosta has extensive experience in working globally with Airlines, Manufacturers, and Governments and aviation agencies. He occupied key executive positions in the Caribbean, North and South American Regions. Fluent in English and Spanish and basic Portuguese, he has a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering, a Master in business administration and project management, and diplomas in accident investigation, and safety and quality management.



**Akachi Iroezi**  
**Director of Global Safety & Regulatory Affairs – Middle East and Africa**  
**Boeing**

Akachi is responsible for leading all of Boeing's global safety and regulatory affairs activities for the Middle East and Africa region. He was named to this role in November of 2020. By partnering externally with industry stakeholders, local and regional civil aviation authorities, airlines and airport operators, and collaborating internally with Boeing airplane programs, business unit stakeholders and the Boeing enterprise level teams, Akachi ensures strong relationships are built, strategic alignment is developed and proactive partnerships which focus on key areas of regional needs are established.

Prior to this role, Akachi served in multiple leadership roles in the Boeing company for the last 16 years, most recently as the 777X Airplane Level Senior Integration Leader, championing the deployment of key Production Stability and Quality enhancing strategic initiatives for 777/777X Engineering, flowing from the Enterprise level, Business Units, engineering and non-engineering functions.

Prior to that, has led multiple teams as Engineering leader and Program Manager across 737NG/MAX, 747-8F/I, 767/777 Legacy as Cargo Product Leader, 787-9/10 programs as Airplane Program Leader over all Seats and IFE products, and as the NMA Product Development Payload Systems leader, to note a few. Akachi grew up in Nigeria, West Africa, enjoys the game of Football (soccer), playing music instruments and traveling with his wife and daughter. He and his family are now based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates in order to directly support the region.





**Bisrat Dinssa**  
**Director – Group QMS, SMS, ERP and Compliance**  
**Ethiopian Airlines**

Bisrat Dinssa is a seasoned Aviation professional with over 23 years of broad industry experience.

He is currently the Safety, Quality, Compliance and Excellence Director at Ethiopian Airlines. In this role, he is responsible for systemwide implementation, conduction of continuous, broad and independent surveillance of the SMS, ERP, QMS and Compliance across the Ethiopian Airlines Group, leading a team of professionals including Divisional Managers, Team Leaders and Internal Auditors.

In previous roles, he has served Tchadia Airlines founding leadership team as Operations Manager since the establishment until it has become fully operational in Chad domestic and the central African region. Bisrat holds Diploma in Safety Management, Quality Management and Integrated Risk Management from IATA.



**Tariq Sugati**  
**Inspector / POI General Civil Aviation Authority**  
**GACA KSA**

Experienced Aviator with 36 years of flying experience having over 16000 hours on jet aircrafts; responsible for safe and economic operations & management of aircraft carrying passengers and/or freight.

Skilful in controlling aircraft and ensuring that they are working properly by checking weather conditions and liaising with air traffic control; possessing a proven ability to work closely with the cabin crew and fellow co-pilots to deliver a safe journey and first-class service to passengers.

Proven leadership skills making sure that rules and regulations are strictly followed; as a leader, strictly taking the role of training new pilots and maintaining company standards. A multi-tasked who is able to remain calm under pressure and who has extensive experience of flying within both the commercial and cargo sectors; clear ability to inspire confidence in both passengers and air crew; flexibility in working unsocial hours.

Certified Internal Auditor Flight operation, Training, Safety and Security departments. Diligent and resourceful individual with high degree of discipline and teamwork who consistently streamlines operations & strives for more.

As a turnaround leader and change agent achieved successful turnarounds for managing multi-million dollar assets with skills to coordinate with several civil agencies.





**Cheikh Diop**  
**Project Leader of Airbus Global Support Strategy for Africa (AGSSA)**  
**Airbus**

Cheikh Diop joined Airbus in 1998 after graduating as an electronics engineer from ENSEEIHT (Ecole Nationale Electronique Electrotechnique Informatique et Hydraulique de Toulouse).

Through various roles, from engineering to customer services, Cheikh has developed an extensive experience in aircraft development, entry into service management and customer support across the world, including leading the first years of the A320neo entry into service worldwide.

Now based in Toulouse, he is leading the Airbus Global Support Strategy for Africa (AGSSA) project, aiming at supporting customers' operations for their growing fleet in the continent.



**Hany Bakr**  
**Senior Vice President Aviation & Maritime Security**  
**MedAire, an International SOS Company**

Hany is an aviation professional that brings over 20 years of experience in the aviation industry, progressively holding executive leadership positions in various airlines, the UN, and MedAire, an International SOS company. Hany led and navigated several aviation businesses in over 160 countries through some of the most dynamic environments in the world having worked in commercial, business aviation, Heads of States, low cost, charter, and freighter air carriers. He held executive positions in airline operations, safety, quality, security, risk management and worked at the UN specialised agency the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

In his capacity as Senior Vice President Aviation & Maritime Security with MedAire, Hany is responsible for ensuring MedAire's Aviation and Maritime strategic security risk management initiatives and oversight to the aviation and maritime industries remains at a cutting edge and constantly advances its forward-leaning innovation framework.

Before joining MedAire, Hany was most recently leading UN's ICAO Middle East team as Regional Officer Aviation Security and Facilitation. Prior to this, Hany was the Security Director Aviation Security & Maritime for International SOS and was part of the executive leadership team of Qatar Airways as VP Group Security where he was accountable for all aspects of aviation and corporate security worldwide, ensuring the company's 50,000 employees and operation in over 100 countries were operating safely through strategic and operational oversight and in compliance with national and international regulations.





**Edward Jumi**  
**Senior Manager Global Aviation Data Management**  
**IATA**

Edward Jumi is a passionate aviation safety and data with over 17 years of experience in this field. He is currently the Senior Manager in charge of the IATA Flight Data Exchange and Incident Data Exchange programs which are the industry premier safety data sharing programs with a global membership. He has previously worked with an international airline in the safety, quality, and flight data analysis roles as well as Air Charter operators in the Oil, Gas and humanitarian fields.

Edward holds a master's degree in Business Administration and is an Approved instructor/ trainer on Flight Data Analysis, Safety and Quality Management Systems.



**Lawrence K Amukono**  
**Chief, National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator for Safety Oversight**  
**Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA)**

Lawrence K Amukono is the Chief, National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator for Safety Oversight at the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA). He holds a master's degree in strategic management.

Lawrence is a trained Air Traffic Controller with over 8 years operational experience, an Aerodrome Inspector with KCAA and an ICAO certified instructor.

Lawrence has over 23years experience in aviation, 15 of which he has worked with CAA in safety oversight.



**Hellen Ndichu**  
**Director Safety**  
**RwandAir**

Hellen Ndichu has been working in the aviation safety field for more than 15 years. Hellen is an experienced and qualified professional in the field of aviation safety, Quality and safety training.

Currently, she serves as the Director of Safety at RwandAir, the national carrier of Rwanda, based in Kigali. She is also a Board Member of the AviAssist Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes aviation safety in Africa.





**Lindi-Lee Kirkman**  
**Manager Operations ATM and Infrastructure – AME**  
**IATA**

Lindi-Lee is a professional with more than 25 years of experience in the aviation industry. She started her career with the South African military where she served in 5 Signal Regiment. She later joined the South African Air Navigation Service Provider (ATNS) where she worked in the field of Aeronautical Information Management.

Today she continues to pursue her passion for improving safety and efficiency in an industry that evolves every day and where each day is an adventure. Lindi-Lee currently serves the aviation industry in the Africa and Middle East regions in her capacity as Manager Operations, Air Traffic Management and Infrastructure for IATA.

Her colleagues will tell you that she is an advocate for collaborative engagement, excellence, and the endeavor to ensure continuous improvement is at the heart of every task she is engaged in.



**Oscar Centeno Giralde**  
**Training Deputy Officer**  
**GroupEAD Europe**

Oscar is a professional with more than 25 years of experience in the aviation industry. He started his career with AENA (Spanish Airports) in Airport Operations at the Ibiza Airport. He later joined the European AIS Database (EAD) of EUROCONTROL where he has worked in different areas of Aeronautical Information including AIM Data Management, Training, Auditing, etc.

Oscar was appointed by ICAO to act as the Training Manager for the Flight Information Service of Somalia (FISS) project based in Nairobi and was part of the project that relocated the FISS from Nairobi back to Mogadishu, Somalia in 2018.

He continues to pursue his passion for improving safety and efficiency in Aeronautical Information from the perspective of aeronautical data management and training. He focuses on Aeronautical Data Quality, implementation of Quality Management Systems and data quality assurance as well as playing a key role in the Evolution from AIS to AIM.

Oscar holds EUROCONTROL, ICAO and other international organization diplomas in Air Navigation Services, AIM Data Management, ISO Auditing and Aeronautical Information Instructional design and Training Management. He also holds a degree in Law from Universidad De Salamanca and a master's degree in Airport Operations from Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia (UNED).





**Roseline Mumbo**  
**Vice President**  
**International Federation of Aeronautical Information Management**  
**Associations (IFAIMA)**

Roseline Mumbo, is a Vice President of International Federation of Aeronautical Information Management Associations (IFAIMA) and has over 18 years of experience in the aviation industry. She is a seasoned expert in the aviation industry and is currently an Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) lecturer at the East African School of Aviation.

With a background in aeronautical information management, cartography and flight procedure design, Roseline has a unique understanding of the intricacies of the aviation industry, and a passion for sharing that knowledge with others. Roseline has dedicated her career to ensuring that the next generation of aviation professionals is equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in this exciting and dynamic field.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.



**Christine Groos**  
**Aviation Data Supplier Management Specialist**  
**Boeing**

Christine is responsible for Aviation Data Supplier Management at Boeing Global Services in Frankfurt, Germany. She joined the Digital Aviation Solutions Research and Incubation team in April 2022 and is currently part of a project about Digital Aviation Data. She has been working with Boeing for 13 years now, mainly in relationship management and communications as well as in various leadership roles.

Prior to that, Christine worked in journalism in different roles, most recently as managing editor. She holds a Master's degree in German Philology, History and Politics, a Certification Business studies, a mini MBA certificate and an Examination for instructor qualification.





**Carsten Skrybeck**  
**Source Liaison**  
**Jeppesen / Boeing**

Carsten Skrybeck graduated from Goethe University Frankfurt am Main in 2017 with a degree in Physical Geography, majoring in Geoinformation Systems and Remote Sensing. In the same year, he started at Boeing Global Services as a Geospatial Technician in the NavData Approach Coding Team.

From 2019, he additionally supported relationship management with aviation authorities. Since 2022, he has been the Source Liaison for relationship management with aviation authorities and aeronautical data providers in Africa, India, Russia and Southern Europe, among others. His main objective is to ensure a smooth flow of aeronautical data.



**Protus Seda Otieno**  
**Assistant Director Operations, ATM, and Infrastructure**  
**IATA**

Protus Seda is a Boeing trained Aircraft Performance Engineering specialist with 19 years' experience in airline industry. Seda worked at Kenya Airways Flight Operations in various roles including Duty Manager at the Integrated Operations Control Center (IOCC), Manager Operation Planning and later as Manager Flight Operations Engineering. Seda joined Kenya Airways as a Graduate Management Trainee after graduating from the University of Nairobi with a BSc. Mathematics degree at the beginning of his aviation career now spanning over thirty-five (35) years.

Seda currently works in IATA as Assistant Director in Operations, Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Infrastructure with the focus on improving safety, efficiency, and effective flight operations with a focus on financial and environmental sustainability.

Seda enjoys working with industry stakeholders in the protection of the environment through fuel efficiency and emission reduction in the various IATA and industry initiatives. He is also IATA instructor for aviation Fuel Efficiency & Conservation at the prestigious IATA Training and Development Institute (ITDI). He holds a Bachelor of Science degree (Mathematics) from the University of Nairobi, a Bachelor of Theology (cum laude) from St. Augustine College, South Africa and an MBA from Regenesys Business School, South Africa.

Seda loves to watch soccer and basketball and is a vivid Arsenal FC fan. He enjoys swimming, playing leisure basketball and golf as a hobby. Seda also likes reading.





**Matthew Pwajok**  
**Ag. Managing Director/CE**  
**Nigerian Airspace Management Agency**

Mr. Pwajok, Matthew Lawrence hails from Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, of Nigeria. He obtained his first degree from the University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, where he graduated in 1992 with a B.Sc. Honors in Accountancy, and then obtained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, in 2000. He had all his working experience in the aviation industry where he started his career as an Air Traffic Control Assistant on 22nd December 1986 with the then Civil Aviation Department (CAD) of the Federal Ministry of Transport, before the creation of the then Federal Civil Aviation Authority (FCAA) in 1988, and subsequently, the establishment of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) in 1999 where he worked.

Pwajok was appointed the General Manager Safety Management System as well as the Technical Adviser to the then Managing Director/CE of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency from January 2015 to 23rd February 2017. On 23rd February 2017, he was appointed the General Manager Air Navigation Standards with the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority until 12th December 2018. He was later appointed the Director of Operations with the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) on 12th December 2018, after which he retired on 22nd December 2021, after 35 years of service. On 7th January 2022, he was reappointed Director of Operations and Acting Managing Director/CEO, of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency.



**Chris Michalak**  
**Senior Flight Ops Representative**  
**Delta Airlines**

As a former airline and U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, Chris is a Senior Flight Ops Representative with Delta Air Lines liaising with the aviation industry promoting flight safety and efficiency. His efforts are inspired by over 40 years of civilian and military operator experience.

Before leaving the cockpit to collaborate on aviation industry initiatives, Chris had served as a Boeing 767 Lead Line Check Pilot at Delta Air Lines, Chairman of IATA's Africa Regional Coordination Group, research cohort with NASA Langley involved with multiple projects focusing on data link, Air Traffic Management Systems, and emerging cockpit technologies. He also serves on the Board of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, Florida.

Most recently Chris has been involved with the ICAO South Atlantic Safety Oversight Group and Implementation Management Group. He coordinates with global aviation organizations, state regulators, operators, air navigation service providers and industry monitoring agencies. Chris holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is still an active pilot in general aviation.





**Simon Zwane**  
**Senior Manager, ATM Planning and Research**  
**Air Traffic and Navigation Services**

Mr. Simon Zwane is a Senior Manager: ATM Planning and Research at Air Traffic and Navigation Services. He began his professional career as an Air Traffic Controller at ATNS, specializing in Tower/Approach and Area control. He also served as a guest instructor at the ATNS Aviation Academy. His responsibilities as a Senior Manager include Developing Concepts for new infrastructure deployment and researching solutions for constraints within the ATM systems. He is also responsible for developing Traffic Forecast and Future Operating environment modules for ATNS permission applications.

Mr. Zwane is the former chair of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG which is established and mandated by APIRG to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities aimed to enable APIRG to discharge its functions and responsibilities in the areas of AOP and ATM. Mr. Zwane also serves under CANSO Africa as the chair of the CANSO AFI Operations WG and chairs the CANSO Mombasa ATFM Roadmap implementation TF. He is part of the team that developed the CANSO Mombasa ATFM Roadmap. Simon is extremely passionate about aviation, especially within the AFI Region, and believes that solving the grand challenges in aviation requires a shift from State/ANSP focus to a broader regional inclusive approach to enable borderless operations and seamless sky operations.



**Captain Irene Koki Mutungi**  
**Captain Pilot**  
**Kenya Airways**

Captain Irene Koki Mutungi (commonly referred to as Koki Mutungi) is a professional pilot in Kenya. She undertook her studies with Kenya School of Flying for her Private Pilot's License and undertook her Commercial Pilots License and other ratings at Crabtree Aviation, Oklahoma, USA. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Aviation Safety management. Her career started with Kenya Airways the National Carrier of Kenya where she rose through the ranks to the current position of Captain of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

She is a lady of many firsts. She was employee 001 Female Pilot at Kenya Airways and was the only female for the airline for close to 6 years when she was hired in 1995. In 2004 she became the first African Woman to qualify to command a Boeing 737 and led Africa's' first all-female crew on a flight the same year. She was the first female on the African Continent to become certified as a Captain of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

She also has an interest in mentoring and coaching young upcoming Aviation professionals and in her free time participating in mentoring sessions with various schools and colleges. Her vision is to start a foundation to mentor and later fund training especially for the less privileged boys and girls helping them reach For the stars by going for what they believe in. Koki enjoys reading, writing, gardening, and spending time with her family. She is a mother of two boys.





**Fiona Omondi**  
**Chief Strategy Officer & Cofounder**  
**Women in Aviation Kenya Chapter**

Fiona Omondi is a highly accomplished professional with over 11 years' experience in the aviation industry. As the Chief Strategy Officer for Tradewinds Aviation Services Ltd she is responsible for driving the organization's strategic growth and regional expansion. Fiona has demonstrated a proven track record of success in developing and executing innovative business strategies. She is a skilled communicator and leader with a passion for motivating and empowering others to achieve their full potential.

Fiona has a deep understanding of the aviation industry and the challenges faced by women. She is very intentional and committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion at the workplace and is a strong advocate of women empowerment. Fiona has a wealth of experience in strategy, project management, marketing, and developing new lines of business across Aviation Training Organizations and Ground Handling and is a sought-after speaker in the aviation industry and has been recognized for her contribution to the field by several prestigious organizations. She earned her MBA from the University of Aberdeen-UK.

Winner of the Dorothy Hilbert Chapter Volunteer of the year award 2022, Fiona is the cofounder of Women in Aviation International-Kenya chapter. A non-profit organisation that encourages young women to take up careers in the aviation industry, efforts geared towards bridging the gender and skills gap in the aviation industry. As a champion of Gender Diversity and Inclusion Fiona is representing Kenya in the AFCAC- Women in Aviation Platform steering committee and was a nominee of the 2022 IATA Diversity and Inclusion Award under the Highflyer category.

