Conference Partner

THE STAT TRADE TIMES

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February 2 - 4, 2027

The Sarit Expo Centre
Nairobi, Kenya
www.aircargoafrica.aero

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Main Theme – Africa in motion: Building corridors, capacity and confidence for growth

Day 1 – Feb 2 (Tue)

9:30 hrs to 10:15 hrs	Inaugural Plenary
10:15 hrs to 11:00 hrs	Networking Break

11:00 hrs to 12:15 hrs

Panel 1: The state of African air cargo: Outpacing the world

African carriers have posted the fastest international cargo growth of any region through late 2025 and early 2026, with load factors climbing faster than in any other region. Yet Africa still accounts for only 2% of global air cargo traffic. This panel sets the tone for the conference by asking what is structural and what is cyclical in that growth — perishables, e-commerce inflows from Asia, intra-African trade, and diverted global capacity — and whether African carriers and hubs are positioned to capture it or simply pass it through.

12:15 hrs to 13:30 hrs

Panel 2: One African sky: Turning SAATM and AfCFTA into cargo reality

The Single African Air Transport Market and the African Continental Free Trade Area remain the two reforms with the greatest potential to cut costs and open capacity across the continent, but implementation has been slow and uneven. SAATM now has 38 signatories, with 26 countries having fully opened their markets, while AfCFTA has been ratified by 49 of Africa's 54 countries. The AU aims to make SAATM fully operational by 2030, with African airlines accounting for at least 70% of fifth-freedom traffic-rights services, while AfCFTA targets full ratification by 2027. This panel brings together regulators, airline strategists and trade economists to assess real progress, the bilateral restrictions still holding capacity back, and what it will take to unlock fifth and seventh freedom cargo rights.

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Day 1 – Feb 2 (Tue)

13:30 hrs to 14:45 hrs	Lunch Break
14:45 hrs to 16:00 hrs	**Panel 3: Global disruption, African opportunity: Hubs in shifting world** Disruption across the Gulf and Red Sea corridors is forcing shippers and logistics providers to rethink routes, hubs and transport combinations. As cargo flows shift, African airports can strengthen their role in wider logistics networks that connect air cargo to ports, road corridors, rail networks, and inland markets. This panel examines how African hubs can capture changing trade flows, where connectivity remains weak, and what infrastructure and logistics partnerships are needed to make these hubs more competitive.
16:00 hrs to 16:30 hrs	Networking Break
16:30 hrs to 17:45 hrs	**Panel 4: Cold chain Africa: Perishables, pharma, infra & tech gap** Flowers, fresh produce, fish, pharmaceuticals and healthcare products are among Africa's most valuable temperature-sensitive cargoes, but maintaining product integrity requires visibility across farms, factories, warehouses, airports, roads and final markets. AI, predictive analytics, IoT and real-time monitoring can help anticipate demand, optimise routes, detect temperature risks and reduce waste. This panel examines how technology can strengthen Africa's cold chains while addressing the infrastructure, data and connectivity gaps that still stand in the way.

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Day 2 – Feb 3 (Wed)

10:00 hrs to 11:15 hrs — **Panel 5: E-commerce take-off: Serving Africa's digital consumer**

The entry and expansion of major e-commerce platforms across African markets, alongside fast-growing local players, is accelerating demand for time-sensitive air freight and reshaping how airlines plan belly capacity. This panel examines what integrators, airlines and postal and express operators need to build — network density, last-mile reliability, customs simplification — to keep pace with a consumer base that is scaling faster than the infrastructure serving it.

11:15 hrs to 11:45 hrs — Networking Break

11:45 hrs to 13:00 hrs — **Panel 6: Ground game: Airport capacity, handling and investment priorities**

Terminal expansion at hubs from Nairobi and Cape Town to Kigali's incoming Bugesera International Airport signals real investment appetite. Still, ground handling capacity, new market entrants and cargo terminal modernisation are advancing unevenly across the continent. This panel brings together airport authorities, ground handlers and investors to map where capacity is being built fastest, where bottlenecks persist, and what it takes to attract capital into African cargo infrastructure.

13:00 hrs to 14:30 hrs — Lunch Break

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Day 2 – Feb 3 (Wed)

14:30 hrs to 15:30 hrs	**Panel 7: Sustainable freight: Decarbonising Africa's cargo supply chains** Africa's growing trade flows will require more freight capacity, but rising fuel costs, emissions targets and climate risks are putting greater pressure on the logistics sector to become more efficient. This panel examines how carriers, logistics providers, airports, ports and cargo owners can reduce emissions across the supply chain while keeping African trade competitive and resilient.
15:30 hrs to 16:00 hrs	Networking Break
16:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs	**Panel 8: When crisis strikes: Building Africa's humanitarian logistics lifeline** Conflict, climate shocks, disease outbreaks and displacement are placing greater pressure on Africa. Delivering food, medicines and essential supplies requires more than emergency airlifts; ports, roads, warehouses, border crossings, local transport networks and last-mile access are all critical. This panel examines how governments, humanitarian organisations, and logistics providers can strengthen these networks, pre-position capacity, and improve coordination so aid can move faster and reach communities when and where it is needed most.
17:00 hrs onwards	Proceed to the Venue for the STAT Times Awards for Excellence in Air Cargo The Glee Hotel, Magnolia Gardens