



**Tefera Mekonnen**

Director, Air Transport, African Civil Aviation Commission

Mr. Tefera is the Director of Air Transport of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), responsible for Air Transport, Aviation Security & Facilitation and Environmental protection. Prior to joining AFCAC, he had eight years of experience working as the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.

During his tenure as Representative to ICAO, Mr. Tefera was actively engaged in the works of the AFI Group at ICAO and in sensitizing States through his effective participation in the development of the draft Common African Aviation Policy (AFCAP), the Abuja Safety Declaration and the AFI SECFAL Initiatives. Mr. Tefera's extensive professional experience in civil aviation spans over 36 years, with increasing responsibility during his services at the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA), where he started as Air Traffic Controller and later, Air Transport Officer and subsequently, Head of Air Transport.

Mr. Tefera's position with the ECCA climaxed as he was appointed Director General of ECAA. Among his achievements in this office, Mr. Tefera directed the national Aviation Security programme, the separation of operational and oversight functions of aviation security and the establishment of an autonomous airport Enterprise. He took part in divers bilateral air service negotiations, including with China, Italy, India and the USA and with several African countries, thus allowing for more liberalized air transport services.

Furthermore, he has served as on the Vice Presidency of AFCAC as well as with the Air Transport Regulatory Board of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and was an active participant in the COMESA/SADC Air Transport Liberalization Committee, including the preparation of the Common Competition Rule for COMESA/SADC/EAC and on the establishment of an interim and later on the Regulatory Board of COMESA. As the Alternate Head of Delegation, Mr. Tefera has led the General Assemblies of ICAO (from the 33rd to the 38th Sessions) and numerous other International and Regional Conferences including Diplomatic, Air Navigation and Air Transport. Mr. Tefera Mekonnen, Tefera is holder of a Bachelor of Arts and Economics degrees from the Addis Ababa University and Diplomas in Air Traffic Control Services, Diplomatic Training at UNITAR, Senior Aviation Management at the International Aviation Management Training Institute, IAMTI, Montreal; Transport Regulation for Anglophone Africa, The World Bank Institute.