

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has called for greater openness and harmonised regulations to unlock Africa's aviation potential, saying that stronger air connectivity is key to driving trade, tourism and economic growth across the continent.

Speaking at the inaugural African Air Transport Convention & Expo in Lomé, Togo, Kagame noted that "a single market works best when rules and standards are predictable and consistent across jurisdictions" and urged support for institutions leading the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market.

He also highlighted Rwanda's experience with easing visa restrictions, stating that the move had boosted business activity, tourism and air links. "Experience shows us that openness and cooperation are powerful drivers of development. No single region has unlocked its potential while remaining fragmented. Air connectivity opens immense opportunities and possibilities," he said.

The convention, jointly organized by the African Civil Aviation Commission and the African Union, has brought together transport ministers, civil aviation authorities, airline and airport executives, manufacturers and investors to advance a resilient, sustainable and competitive aviation ecosystem in Africa.

On the sidelines of the event, President Kagame is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé of Togo.