

Aircraft over 20 years old will soon be banned from Africa's skies. The move is meant to reduce the number of air accidents in the continent, it was announced yesterday. Old planes manufactured in Europe were cited as particularly prone to fatal accidents.

The secretary general of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), Christian Folly Kossi, said: "Banning of old aircraft in Nigeria and Angola is undoubtedly avenues worth considering in order to prevent Africa from rapidly becoming a graveyard for overseas refurbished airplanes," said Mr Kossi.

He pointed out that most accidents involve charter, cargo, unscheduled and on-request flights.

"It is worth noting that the non-scheduled long-haul flights on which the accidents have occurred were operated either on-board foreign aircraft or on aircraft whose maintenance is carried out in abroad, often in Europe," said Mr Kossi. "In addition, most of the accidents that occurred on African domestic routes involved foreigners established in Africa, and operating old aircraft, mostly from Eastern Europe."



Photo/Thomas Mukoya

Africa Airlines Association secretary general Christian Folly-Kossi (right) and his technical director Elijah Chingosho address a press conference on the air safety in Africa, at the Grand Regency Hotel in Nairobi, yesterday.