



## INFORMATION PAPER

### SPECIAL AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (AFI) REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION (RAN) MEETING

Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008

**Agenda Item 6: Development of a set of comprehensive work programmes in the air navigation field, aimed at improving efficiency of the air navigation system (Efficiency Committee)**

#### COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF AIRSPACES FOR ENSURING A SAFE, ORDERLY AND EFFECTIVE FLOW OF AIR TRAFFIC

(Presented by Senegal)

##### SUMMARY

This paper contains a proposal for the consolidation or the creation of functional airspace blocks (FIRs or airspaces regrouping) in order to promote the efficiency of air transport through flexible use of airspace aimed at providing a safe, orderly and effective flow of air traffic.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1** Civil Aviation is one of the key enablers of the economic growth in the world; this is particularly true for the AFI region.

**1.2** The harmonized implementation of ICAO standards and recommended practices (SARPs) require appropriate funding and staffing; however, most States in the AFI region lack the necessary resources to carry out their obligations.

**1.3** These States are currently facing serious deficiencies in the implementation of the SARPs relating to air traffic services; such deficiencies are noted in numerous reports, particularly in the APIRG reports.

**1.4** Despite the numerous efforts made by States and ICAO, persistent difficulties are noted.

**1.5** In this context, ICAO has developed strategies aimed at improving, in an effective and sustainable manner, the provision of air navigation services and enabling States to break this vicious cycle ; the implementation of these strategies are expressed, inter alia, in the objectives of the comprehensive regional implementation plan for aviation safety in Africa.

## 2 DISCUSSION

**2.1** One of the main principles of this plan consists, for AFI States, to group together within economic bodies so as to ensure that air navigation services are provided, in a safe, flexible and effective manner.

**2.2** Such strategy requires States to group together their upper airspaces and to establish efficient regional control centres with appropriate technical and human resources so as to enable a cooperative management of these functional airspaces blocks.

**2.3** This approach has significant advantages :

- Optimization of investments through economies of scale;
- Flexible and effective airspace management through airspace rationalization;
- Harmonized Implementation of SARPs ;
- A better use of human resources.

**2.4** It must be noted that such cooperative approach for upper airspaces was already encouraged through numerous recommendations :

**2.5** Among these recommendations, we can note:

- The recommendation 5/1 of the AFI/7 meeting
  - « **It is recommended that States, with respect to CNS/ATM implementation with a view to establish a favourable cost/efficiency ratio, consider a cooperative approach for leveraging the efficiency of airspace management, in particular through regional cooperation aimed at achieving the globalization of the upper airspace management, in order to facilitate the safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic. »**
- the « Declaration des Almadies » and the concept of « Single African Sky» agreed at the first meeting of air navigation providers in Africa region, held in Yaoundé from 23 to 27 June 2003, and aimed at « ...harmonizing air traffic management systems and procedures, rationalizing service areas and consolidating air traffic services on the basis of cost/benefit considerations and the elimination of discontinuities with respect to service availability and quality, as well as the requirement for a seamless flexible system with consideration for users' needs.».

**2.6** Some States have already taken the initiatives of grouping together in order to ensure the provision of air navigation services (for example ASECNA States and Member States of Roberts FIR). Such regional bodies must be supported by the civil aviation community.

**2.7** Other States of the south and the east of Africa expressed the need to group together.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

**3.1** Therefore, the following recommendation is proposed:

**Recommendation 6/ : Support for the concept of cooperative management of upper airspaces with a view to safe and efficient flow of traffic**

It is recommended that:

- States of AFI region be encouraged to support the concept of cooperative management of upper airspaces which requires:

- Firstly, the consolidation of FIR of AFI FIRs by the unification of the upper airspaces
  - The creation of functional airspace blocks through FIRs regrouping ;
- ICAO continues, in cooperation with States, the implementation of the concept of « single sky » in the AFI region.

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