



WORKING PAPER

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

Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008

Agenda Item 5: Development of a set of comprehensive work programmes in the safety field (Safety Committee)

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE AFI REGION

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to share the IATA vision and strategy on ways and means of improving safety in Africa, based on the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR). The paper also calls States attention to the availability of IATA safety programmes.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the mandate of which is to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development, has dedicated two decades to the development of transport and communications in Africa. By the end of the second decade, it is evident that African economies cannot afford the huge costs of construction of very long-distance roads or railways across the deserts and the tropical forests of the continent. This makes air transport Africa's only practicable means to integrate its economies and be competitive in the global marketplace. Air transport generates around 430 000 jobs in Africa and contributes more than US\$ 9.2 billion to the African gross domestic product (GDP, direct, indirect and induced impacts), and can make a significant contribution to sustainable economic development in Africa.

1.2 Safety performance is the principal success factor of a healthy air transport system.

1.3 IATA is committed to working with ICAO and other partners towards improvement of both safety and efficiency of air transport operations in Africa and to positively change the perception of the travelling public, which will contribute to higher air traffic growth. This challenge requires initiatives that can effectively induce a decline in the accident rate.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The following are the main contributing factors to accidents in Africa, as indicated by IATA annual safety reports:

- a) inconsistent implementation of ICAO Standards in a large number of States;
- b) inconsistent regulatory oversight;
- c) impediments to reporting and analyzing errors and incidents. A substantial number of AFI aircraft operators do not have safety reporting systems in place and only limited legislation supporting such systems exist in States;
- d) inconsistent implementation of safety management systems (SMS); and
- e) gaps in use of technology to enhance safety.

2.2 Strategy for Safety Improvement in the AFI Region

2.2.1 AFI States, ICAO and industry must continue to work closely together to develop and implement relevant action plans within the framework of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), and supported by the AFI Comprehensive Implementation Programme (ACIP).

2.2.2 Implementation of GASP should follow a standard process, utilizing the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR), and resulting in an action plan to remediate the identified priorities. A number of States in the region have initiated this process, but equally important is persisting in the cycle by constantly developing and implementing projects to bridge gaps, until the desired level of maturity is achieved.

2.2.3 States and other donors are urged to participate in and fund projects which follow this approach.

2.2.4 SP AFI/08-WP/62 presents IATA Safety Programmes which can contribute to the achievement of such objectives. We invite States and industry to consider their utilization.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) urge States to implement the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan through the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap process;
- b) raise awareness of States and the industry to the IATA Safety Programme initiatives as contained in SP AFI/08-WP/62, as part of the means to bridge identified gaps; and
- c) invite all aviation stakeholders to support States in the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap.

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