



## COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA (AFI SECFAL PLAN)

### SECOND AFI SECFAL PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (Montreal, Canada, 27 November 2015)

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report on the Status of the AFI Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group (RASFG-AFI)**

*(Presented by AFCAC)*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Paper presents the Status of the establishment of RASFG-AFI in line with the decision of the Steering Committee of the AFI SECFAL and the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Transport in Luanda, Angola.

#### **Action by the meeting:**

The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Take note of the formation of the Group;
- b) Approve its Terms of Reference and Work Programme; and
- c) Provide further instructions and guidance related to the work of the group.

## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The establishment of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and Indian Ocean Region (RASFG-AFI) began when an analysis of ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) results through two cycles highlighted the Lack of Effective Implementation (LEI) of the critical elements of aviation security systems in Africa. This is in addition to other sources of information, pointing to an urgent need for a coordinated and sustained regional initiative focused on strengthening aviation security (AVSEC) and facilitation (FAL) implementation on the African continent.

1.2 In order to overcome these security and facilitation shortcomings, the Second Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT) in Luanda, Angola from

21 to 25 November 2011, decided to “endorse the establishment of a Regional Aviation Security Group to facilitate the implementation of the 2007 Addis Ababa Declaration and the 2010 Abuja Declaration and African Roadmap on Aviation Security adopted by the Ministers responsible for Aviation Security”.

1.3 The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) thereafter took the initiative and requested ICAO’s assistance for a regional approach towards reducing Africa’s LEIs. ICAO responded by coming up with the African Aviation Security and Facilitation (AFI SEC-FAL) Initiative which is expected to strengthen AVSEC and FAL in the AFI Region by filling the gaps that were revealed during the Audit cycles.

1.4 At the second meeting of the ICAO Committee on Unlawful Interference and the first meeting of the Air Transport Committee, during the 203<sup>rd</sup> Council Session, the Committees jointly considered the AFI Security/Facilitation Initiative, which presented a proposal for the establishment of an ICAO AFI Security/Facilitation (SECFAL) Initiative. The Committees recommended that the Council approve the AFI SECFAL Initiative as a Plan and an ICAO programme and therefore requested that the Secretary General report on the progress made in implementing the AFI SECFAL Plan regularly.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The overall objective of the AFI SECFAL Plan is to enhance aviation security and facilitation in Africa in a sustainable manner. To achieve the goals and objectives of this Plan, it is essential that African States demonstrate strong political and technical commitment to building capacity, particularly in compliance with Annexes 17 and 9, and to share resources, experience and information among themselves.

2.2 To proceed with the implementation of the AFI SEC-FAL Plan, a Steering Committee (SC) was established by the Secretary General of ICAO at the inception of the Plan. The First AFI SEC-FAL SC meeting took place in Maputo, Mozambique on 18 May, 2015. The SC will provide support, guidance and oversight of progress related to the AFI SECFAL Plan implementation, while progress made would be reported to ICAO Council on a regular basis.

### ***Establishment of the Regional Aviation Security Group (RASFG-AFI)***

2.3 AFCAC presented a Working Paper on the “Establishment of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group” during the First AFI SECFAL Steering Committee meeting in Maputo, Mozambique on 18 May, 2015 the substance of which was endorsed by the Steering Committee. As a result, the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group was established at a meeting of the States and the AFCAC Security Working Group from 16 -17 September 2015 in Dakar, Senegal.

2.4 This group will serve as instrument to coordinate the implementation of the Abuja Declaration and Roadmap as well as the ICAO Declaration and strategy on aviation security and facilitation. The Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group will comprise Experts from the AFI Region who would be available to advise the Steering Committee of the AFI SEC-FAL on technical issues pertaining to the AFI SEC-FAL Programme implementation and ensure that appropriate activities are conducted in support of the objectives of the Plan as directed by the Steering Committee.

2.5 During the Steering Committee (SC) meeting, AFCAC with the assistance of ICAO was tasked to develop the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and the Work Programme for the RASFG-AFI. Furthermore, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe during the 13<sup>th</sup> AFCAC Air Transport Committee Meeting, member States directed the AFCAC Secretariat to ensure the participation of States in the development of the ToRs and the Work Programme of the RASFG. It was with this in view that AFCAC had convened the meeting so that States could have the opportunity of participating in the development of the ToRs and the Work Programme.

### ***First RASFG –AFI Meeting***

2.6 The meeting was attended by forty seven (47) participants from 21 States and international organizations (AFCAC, ICAO and the ASTC Dakar). The Transport Security Administration (TSA) representing the United States of America (USA) also attended the meeting as a non-African partner State. Mr. Joao dos Reis Monteiro, President of the Board of Directors of Cabo Verde Civil Aviation Authority was elected to chair the meeting while Tanzania was elected the Vice Chair. The Report of the meeting is attached to this Paper as **Annex A**.

2.7 The draft ToRs were reviewed by the meeting point by point while inputs from participants were considered for incorporation into the draft ToRs and thereafter adopted. The ToRs are attached as **Annex B**. The draft Work Programme of the RASFG-AFI was also discussed and the inputs received from participants were incorporated and adopted and is attachment as **Annex C** to this Paper. Five (5) focus areas were identified and adopted for the intervention of the Expert Teams with suggested qualifications and criteria for the Technical Assistance Team. After the meeting, AFCAC wrote a letter to member States reminding them that in line with the Terms of Reference, States are expected to designate members of the RASFG-AFI in accordance with the set criteria.

2.8 The Director General of Sudan Civil Aviation Authority announced during the meeting that Sudan is prepared to host the Second RASFG-AFI Meeting in 2016.

## **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note that in line with the CAMT and 1<sup>st</sup> AFI SECFAL SC meeting endorsements, the RASFG-AFI has been established.
- b) Note the Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> RASFG-AFI meeting; approve the Terms of Reference and the Work Programme as adopted.
- c) Support the conclusions reached after professional debates and successful development and adoption of the criteria/qualifications required for the designation of Experts to the Technical Assistance Team.
- d) Encourage AFI States to designate members of the RASFG-AFI in accordance with the set criteria.

