



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/25)
7-11 November 2022

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

3.1 Outcomes of the fifth Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group Meeting (AAO/SG5)

(Presented by AAO/SG Secretariat)

| Summary |
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| <p>This paper presents the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-group (AAO/SG5), held virtually, from 23 to 26 August 2022.</p> <p>The Sub-Group reviewed the status of implementation of APIRG/24 Conclusions/Decisions related to the AAO/SG areas. The meeting also discussed achievements and challenges in Airspace and Aerodrome operations and proposed follow up actions. The meeting reviewed the status of implementation of specific projects adopted by APIRG; identified ASBU elements applicable to the AFI Region and discussed issues related to the development of the Volume III of the AFI e- ANP. Finally, the meeting discussed matters related to the activities to be coordinated with the RASG-AFI SSTs.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.</p> |
| <p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doc 7300, Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944• Doc 9750, Global Air Navigation Plan, 6th Edition• Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan - Africa-Indian Ocean Region• Doc 10115, Report of the Thirteenth Air Navigation Conference (2018)• APIRG Reports• AAO/SG4 Report• AAO/SG ToR |
| <p>Strategic Objective(s): This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives: A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E - Environmental Protection.</p> |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting was attended by one hundred and forty-two (142) participants from AFI States and Regional/International Organizations.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting discussed nine (09) agenda items as reflected in the Report of the Meeting presented in Appendix 1 to this Working Paper.

2.2 The meeting was chaired by Mr. Billy Diabasenga Kusuamina (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Mr. Nathan Kaluba (Zambia), Vice-Chairperson. Officers from the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

2.3 The meeting reviewed Conclusions and Decisions of the APIRG/24 meeting pertaining to the Sub-group. The status of implementation of AAO/SG Projects was also discussed. The meeting finally reviewed achievements made by the AAO/SG as well as the challenges encountered.

2.4 Thirteen (13) draft Conclusions/Decisions were adopted by the AAO/SG5 meeting. This paper presents draft Conclusions/Decisions that call for the attention of the APIRG.

Review of the draft Conclusions/Decisions of the AAO/SG4 and Conclusions/Decisions of APIRG/24 meeting related to AAO/SG areas

2.5 The meeting reviewed the APIRG and RASG-AFI Conclusions and Decisions pertaining to the mandate of the AAO Sub-group, noted progress made and urged States and organizations to ensure expedite the implementation of the open items.

2.6 The updated status of implementation of APIRG Conclusions and Decisions is provided at **Appendix 2** to the AAO/SG Report.

Agenda Item 3: Achievements in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations

Identification of applicable ASBU Elements

2.7 The meeting discussed the identification of ASBU elements applicable to the AFI region in airspace and aerodrome operations. The identification considered the performance-based approach, the concept and criteria that had been used by the Secretariat in assessing the applicability of ASBU elements in the AFI Region. The meeting therefore proposed that the identified ASBU elements be applicable to the Region.

2.8 The meeting therefore formulated the following draft conclusion:

***Draft Conclusion 25/XX:** Adoption of the ASBU Elements applicable to airspace and aerodrome operations in the AFI Region*

That, to align the AFI Regional air navigation plan to the GANP, the ASBU elements, as identified in Appendices 3 and 4 to the AAO/SG5 report, are applicable to airspace and aerodrome operations in the AFI region.

ASBU data collection tool and status of implementation of applicable ASBU elements

2.9 The meeting noted that the Secretariat had developed an Excel-based data collection template as in appendix 5 to the report. The meeting was also updated on an online platform developed by the secretariat aimed at facilitating data collection and automation of the generation of dashboards on ASBU implementation. The meeting noted that the user interface of the developed platform would leverage the experience of the manual template.

2.10 The meeting then formulated the following draft conclusions:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: Data collection and reporting on ASBU implementation

That, to update the status of implementation of ASBU elements through continuous reporting and data-driven analysis in the Region:

a) States to use the data collection template, as presented in Appendix 5 to the AAO/SG5 report, and report to ICAO Regional Offices quarterly on the status of implementation of ASBU elements until the online platform is completed.

b) States to migrate to the online platform for data collection and reporting when the platform is completed.

Reporting on planning and implementation by States and Stakeholders

Development of the AFI ATM Master Plan (AAMP)

2.11 The meeting reviewed the progress in the development of the AFI ATM Vision 2045, the Future AFI Concept of Operations (AFI CONOPS) and the AFI ATM Master Plan (AAMP), and noted that these documents were at an advanced stage towards completion. The meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the documents to States and stakeholders for their final review and feedback by end of 31 December 2022.

Review of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan (AFI ATM CP)

2.12 The meeting noted that the AFI ATM Contingency Plan (AFI ATM CP) had been reviewed to incorporate the lessons learnt since the publication of the second edition. The meeting also noted the updated contact details of State/FIR ATM Contingency Plan Focal Points. The meeting further noted the need for a tabletop exercise to be carried out to test the plan and ensure the robustness and efficiency and recommended that it be done by the end of March 2023.

The meeting therefore formulated the following draft conclusion and draft decision:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: *Adoption of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan (AFI ATM CP)*

That, to facilitate the implementation of contingency arrangements in the region, the revised membership of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan Coordination Team and the Third edition of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan in Appendices 8 and 9 to the AAO/SG5 report be endorsed.

Draft Decision 25/XX: *Effectiveness of the AFI ATM Contingency Plan (AFI ATM CP)*

That, to ensure the effectiveness of the AFI ATM CP, a tabletop exercise should be conducted by the AFI Contingency Coordination Team (CCT) by 31 March 2023.

AFI Free Route Airspace (AFI FRA)

2.13 The meeting was informed of the three-cluster approach namely, Western & Central Africa, Southern Africa, and Eastern Africa that the project team had adopted, to have a harmonized implementation of the FRA in the AFI Region.

2.14 The meeting also noted that each cluster will hold virtual meetings to review the gaps identified, develop safety assessments at the regional level and agree on the action plans which will be harmonised during the face-to-face meeting in Mauritius 24 to 28 October 2022. The main objective will be to review the level of preparedness at the regional level and agree on the implementation date as guided by the proposed roadmap. The meeting therefore formulated the following draft conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: *Implementation of the AFI Free Route Airspace (AFI FRA)*

That, to standardize FRA Implementation in the AFI Region:

- a) *The AFI FRA CONOPS 2nd Edition, which introduces the standardized FRA publication template as in Appendix 10 to the AAO/SG5 report, be endorsed;*
- b) *States that have implemented FRA be encouraged to share lessons learned from their experience.*

ARMA RVSM and Operational Safety

2.15 The meeting noted the progress made towards implementation of SLOP and urged those that are yet to do so to expedite the process to enhance operational safety in the region.

2.16 The meeting noted with concern the emerging trend affecting safety in the AFI RVSM airspace associated to the allocation and use of FL420 by aircraft operating outside the RVSM airspace. The meeting identified this concern as one of the emerging issues requiring awareness on the associated safety risks.

2.17 In order to address the above items in a coordinated manner, the meeting formulated the following draft conclusions:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: *Improved safety in the AFI RVSM Airspace.*

That, to enhance continued RVSM airspace safety within the AFI Region:

- a) States to conduct awareness to ATC and Pilots on the risk of allocating FL420 to aircrafts;
- b) States to report the use of FL420 by pilots and ATC to ARMA as part of the reported RVSM data; and
- c) ARMA to conduct annual workshops for the RVSM National Project Managers (NPM)

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: Nomination of State RVSM Subject Matter Focal Points

That, to improve coordination with ARMA, the Secretariat to coordinate with States for submission of the RVSM National Project Manager (NPM) and alternate subject matter Focal Points by December 2022.

AFI SSR Code Allocation and Assignment Review (ASCAAR) project

2.18 The meeting was presented by a detailed report of the successful implementation of the SSR code management plan for the four Performance Areas (PA) adopted for implementation of the project. A way forward was presented to the meeting that noted that the ASCAAR project had come to fruition and could successfully be concluded.

2.19 The meeting therefore formulated the following draft conclusion.

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: Report on the implementation of the AFI SSR CMP

That, to conclude the implementation of the AFI SSR Code Management Plan (AFI SSR CMP), the implementation report of the ASCAAR Project in Appendix 11 to the AAO/SG5 report be endorsed.

ATS Competency Study

2.20 The meeting was presented with the results of the ATS Competency study, which had the following specific recommendations:

- i.) States to identify differences in training programmes and develop a mechanism to harmonize training and abridging programmes.
- ii.) States to develop a plan for accelerating training on emerging issues in the AFI Region through industry stakeholders. Key training topics among emerging issues are CISM, human factors (HF), threat and error (TEM) management; and
- iii.) States to incorporate abridging programmes, OJT, recurrent and continued proficiency evaluation as per ICAO Doc 10056 in their training programmes.

2.21 Noting that the study had been completed, the meeting formulated the following draft conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: Report on the ATS Competency Study

That,

- a) *The report on the Study on ATS Competency in the AFI Region presented in Appendix 12 to the AAO/SG5 report be endorsed, and the project concluded; and*

- b) *States to implement the recommendations of the Study.*

Civil/Military Cooperation and Coordination

2.22 The Civil/Military Cooperation and Coordination focused mostly on the experience shared by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on implementation issues. The State summarized its experience in two main periods, namely the historical era of cooperation before the formalized MOC and the period after the signing of the MOC. That experience enabled the State to implement best practices as recommended by ICAO.

2.23 The meeting therefore formulated the following draft decision:

Draft Decision 25/XX: Civil/Military Cooperation

That, to continue the promotion of civil military cooperation, the Secretariat to organize two workshops/seminars by the end of 2023.

AFI ATM Summit

2.24 The meeting recalled the APIRG Conclusion 22/35 (c) on the seamless Air Traffic Management, which the called on ICAO Regional Offices to consider hosting the AFI Air Navigation Summit on seamless ATM System for the AFI Region.

2.25 The meeting noted the importance of the CDM approach and process adopted by the team. The approach to system and infrastructure investment through various strategies including surveillance, navigation, and communication (CNS) strategies was emphasised for harmony and interoperable seamless Air Traffic Management. The meeting formulated the following draft conclusion.

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: AFI ATM Summit

That, to implement a harmonized, interoperable and seamless Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems that support 'Africa Single Sky', the Secretariat to explore and coordinate with relevant stakeholders the hosting of the AFI ATM Summit by end of 2024.

GRF implementation and monitoring

2.26 The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the Global Reporting Format for runway surface conditions (GRF) at the time of the meeting as 59% of AFI States. The meeting urged States to ensure full implementation of GRF and address any challenges that are hindering the progress.

Aerodrome Certification Status in AFI Region

2.27 The meeting was informed that aerodrome certification status in the AFI region is at 33.1 % for AFI States.

2.28 The meeting encouraged States to address the identified key challenges slowing down the progress of Aerodrome Certification in AFI. These challenges are the inadequate training and qualification of aerodrome experts, the cost of the certification activities, and organizational issues. To

address the issues, the meeting recommended that the Secretariat should follow up on States to ensure appropriate implementation of agreed actions.

Training and Qualification of AGA technical staff (regulator and airport operators) Project Team report

2.29 The meeting was informed of the progress made by the project team including carrying out a survey to States. It was reported that 37.5 percent of the States had responded to the Survey questionnaire sent by the Project team and extend the response time for more information to 31st October 2022. The Report of the project team is included as appendix 13 to the AAO/SG5 report.

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation Deficiencies

Development of the AFI eANP Volume III

2.30 The meeting was informed that considering the latest edition of the GANP and the applicable ASBU elements identified for the Region, the e ANP volume III was under development. The development of the e ANP volume III is being undertaken in coordination between the AAO/SG and the IIM/SG.

2.31 In this regard the meeting formulated the following draft conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 25/XX: Development of the AFI eANP Volume III

That, to conclude the development of the Volume III of the AFI eANP,

a) The Secretariat, in coordination with the AAO and IIM Subgroups, to finalize the draft AFI eANP Volume III and circulate it for review by States by 30 November 2022; and

b) States to review the draft Volume III of the AFI eANP and provide the Secretariat with their feedback by 31 December 2022, for finalization and submission to APIRG through the APCC for formal approval.

Reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies

2.32 The meeting was updated on the progress of development of the AANDD tool and the need for States and Organizations to continuously report Air Navigation deficiencies to the Regional Offices as required by the APIRG procedural handbook, and , in accordance with the Uniform Methodology for the Identification, Assessment and Reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies approved by the Council of ICAO.

Agenda Item 6: Implementation challenges of the Sub-group

2.33 The meeting noted that the challenges encountered by the Sub-group in achieving its objectives included the lack of participation and commitment of States' experts, the unavailability of data from States and Industry and the lack of reporting to the Secretariat.

2.34 The meeting urged all State and international organizations participants to show more commitment by participating in the projects, avail data and report to secretariat as appropriate.

Agenda Item 8: Review of the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of the Sub-group.

2.35 The meeting reviewed and endorse its future work programme, including activities and meetings. The proposed work programme of the subgroup was included as Appendix 15 to the AAO/SG5 report.

2.36 The following draft decision was formulated.

Draft Decision 25/XX: Future Work Programme of the AAO/SG

That, to achieve the AAO/SG's assigned objectives, the future work programme of the AAO/SG presented in Appendix 15 to the AAO/SG5 report is endorsed.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in the AAO/SG5 meeting report.
- b) Act on the proposed draft Conclusions and draft Decisions
