



ICAO

**Seventh Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Aviation Safety Group  
(RASG-AFI/7)  
(Virtual – 5 November 2021)**

**Title : STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE  
CONTEXT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

*(Presented by BAGASOO.)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This working paper presents activities and measures that have been carried out in the region to promote and facilitate a restart and recovery of civil aviation within the BAG Region in order to increase the safety and efficiency of air travel. These measures have helped strengthened our resilience and improved our capacity to adapt to ever changing realities in our business environment for greater efficiency and performance.</p>	
<p>Action by the Meeting is in <b>paragraph 3</b></p>	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	Safety, Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The emergence of COVID 19 in 2020 left significant negative impact on aviation, affecting businesses and travel and virtually every sector of the global economy.

1.2 The changes brought about by COVID-19 affected the needs and expectations of all aviation stakeholders. The changing business context has altered customer needs and expectations as well as the risk and opportunities that Organizations face.

1.3 Many in the aviation sector were forced to re-assess their systems, procedures and processes, cognizant of the continuing spread of the pandemic, with a view to determining to what extent they have been affected – what deviations and losses have arisen - what adjustments, mitigations, contingencies, will be required - in the immediate and long term.

1.4 Just like other Organizations, BAGASOO was compelled to look inwards, re-evaluate its annual work programme for the year, re-organize its activities so as to remain relevant and consistently deliver on its planned obligations to Member States. The reorganization allowed a re-alignment and redesign of existing programmes and project to permit greater use of remote online technology.

## **2 DISCUSSION**

### **BAG Region COVID 19 Task Force**

2.1 In response to the directive of BAGASOO Board of Directors, a BAG region COVID 19 Task Force was established, to assist in harmonizing the COVID-19 Risk Management Protocols of Members States for the restart of Aviation Operations within the BAG Region. Several teleconferences were held with the participation of the Task Force Members. Some of the activities of the task force included :

- a) Creation of working groups by specialties;
- b) Developing harmonized protocols and implementation procedures for Risk mitigation;
- c) Addressing and developing implementation procedures to cover areas not addressed;
- d) Recommending best practices for adoption by States.

### **Issuance of Safety Circulars**

2.2 To face the challenges of the pandemic and to facilitate a restart of aviation operations within the region, BAGASOO developed several documents and safety circulars to assist its Member States. The documents provide information and guidance on the measures that CAA and service providers can adopt on safety risk management applicable to the aviation personnel due to changes triggered by COVID-19.

### **CRRIC Database**

2.3 BAGASOO provided assistance to member States in the preparation of State responses to the recommendations on the CART and in providing State information for the CRRIC database. BAGASOO has been working closely with states on the implementation of the CART additional phases.

### **Introduction of Crises Communication Strategies**

2.4 Robust crisis communication strategies were also introduced and explored to strengthen internal and external means of reaching out to member States and the general public during and after the pandemic or any other crises.

### **Acquisition of Virtual Training Capabilities**

2.5 To enable BAGASOO staff to adapt to the new normal in respect to training, BAGASOO management was able train its technical staff on the ICAO Virtual Classroom Instruction (VCI) course for the virtual delivery of courses.

2.6 With the knowledge and skills acquired from the VCI and the requirement for physical distancing, BAGASOO embarked on developing all its course to have a virtual component. Already the CITS has been completed and a trial run has been delivered of which three member States benefited.

### **Revamping of BAGASOO Safety Tools**

2.7 Furthermore, in an attempt to ensure the continuous operation of aviation safety tools (ITRAQS ISATS and FASAP) and to maintain our support services to the member states as well as other non-Member States, the BAGASOO applications are being revamped from scratch with greater emphasis on the need to deploy a more modern and robust technology, increase security with inclusion of new features with, French and Portuguese interfaces. This would allow for scalability of the application and ease support.

### **Cooperative Training Scheme**

2.8 In order to be able to meet increasing demand for its training services, particularly the ITRAQS, in the face of reduced opportunities for in-person training due to COVID 19, BAGASOO is working on introducing the Cooperative Training Scheme. The scheme will allow the following :

- a) use of a larger number of instructors for the training work by the BAGASOO, which would result in the more effective implementation of the BAGASOO's work programme;
- b) the participation of a greater number of national instructors in the work of the BAGASOO;
- c) the opportunity to provide national instructors with a greater breadth of experience and exposure to a wider range of training; and
- d) vastly improved cost economies and savings realized from not having to permanently retain regional instructors on the BAGASOO's budget.

### **Structured Task Based Training for Aviation Lawyers**

2.9 Given the need for harmony, stronger interface and seamless working relation between inspectors and aviation lawyers in the conduct of CAA oversight functions, BAGASOO is working on establishing a structured training programme for aviation lawyers predicated on the principles and concepts of the ITS. Ongoing activities include – development of task and training profiles, formal course standards, Job Task Analysis packages for aviation lawyers.

2.10 Part of the development, review and validation process will include technical sessions with by relevant experts such as BAG committee legal committee of experts and TCR to ensure attainment of acceptable quality.

### **Establishment of Quality Management System**

2.11 In response to the turbulence triggered by COVID 19, BAGASOO adopted a Quality Management System (QMS) that is agile, recognizing the need to implement change in a timely, orderly manner and for efficient delivery of services to States.

### **Strengthening the Harmonization Process**

2.12 In keeping with its mandate as captured in the BAGASOO agreement, the Organisation has from inception consistently implemented a number of measures to promote gradual process of harmonization within the BAG region. To further strengthen these measures and accelerate the process, BAGASOO has commenced work on the preparation of a definitive policy framework on harmonization of regulations and processes for BAG Member States to meet ICAO SARPs polices, plans and programmes.

### **Intervention Outcomes**

2.13 With the current aforementioned interventions, necessitated by the COVID 19 and other medium- and long-term measures being considered for integration into operational systems and processes, the Organization's resilience and capacity to adapt has been strengthened. Its efficiency and operational performance is enhanced. It is increasingly equipped to confront future unforeseen upheavals that may impact the conduct of its business

## **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this Paper.