

CONCEPT NOTE

AFI RSOO Strategic Plan Validation Workshop

25th November 2021, Virtual

1. Background and Rationale

1.1 In line with the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) in Africa adopted by African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation, in Ezulwini, on 24 March 2017, and subsequent decisions of the AFI Plan Steering Committee, the AFI Comprehensive Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa initiated a study for the strengthening of RSOOs in the AFI region. The key purpose of the study is to identify the actions necessary for ensuring the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the RSOOs and develop a Strategic Plan and Roadmap for implementation.

1.2 Accordingly, the AFI Plan engaged a consultant between July and October 2021 to conduct the study considering the following key elements:-

- Data collection survey related to operationalization involving all States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), RSOOs and RAIO in the AFI Region;
- SWOT analysis of the RSOOs and a review of the status of safety oversight and effective implementation of the eight critical elements in the AFI States;
- Review of mechanisms/options for the sustainable funding of RSOOs, to include the possible establishment of common funding scheme, service user levies, passenger tariffs, etc.;
- Overview of options for the appropriate staffing of RSOOs with technical staff and inspectors, including the development of schemes for the sharing of inspectors between RSOOs and other entities, such as the national authorities and the AFI-CIS, within the region and between the RSOOs themselves;
- Analysis of current setup mechanisms aimed at streamlining the number and size of RSOOs in the AFI Region relative to the availability and distribution of resources, including a review of already existing RSOOs; and
- Review of issues related to the autonomy/independence of RSOOs within the AFI Region, the delegation of functions and duties to the RSOO by its member/partner States and, on behalf of member States, participation in ICAO programmes and projects.

1.3 The study evaluated the impact of AFI RSOOs on improvement of safety oversight standards of States and their effectiveness and efficiency. Furthermore, based on the information gathered from States, RSOOs, RECs and RAIOS, the consultant made a comprehensive analysis and came up with a number of recommendations to be taken into consideration for the establishment of an AFI RSOO strategy, and a roadmap for its implementation.

2. Objective and Expected Outcomes of the workshop

- 2.1 The overall goal of the workshop is to review, improve and validate the RSOO study strategy and roadmap presented by the consultant.
- 2.2 The expected outcomes at the end of the workshop includes:
- A common and agreed understanding on the RSOOs strategy and road map;
 - Review and consider the various alternatives of sustainability/funding mechanisms presented to strengthen RSOOs; and
 - Review and consider the various options presented on the way forward for the RSOOs efficiency and effectiveness in the Region.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The Workshop will be organized virtually by ESAF and WACAF regional offices. It will be held over one day and would comprise specific presentations related to the theme by the consultant and other resource persons. The participants will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Study, engage in a dialogue suggesting various ideas to improve and enhance the quality of the study and related options, scenarios and strategies presented. Furthermore, the Workshop is expected to develop a follow-up strategy, including actions to be taken by different stakeholders to implement the strategy.
- 3.2 RSOOs including other relevant stakeholders and partners from Regional Economic Communities, States, Industry, and Financial institutions as well as international experts who have a wealth of knowledge elsewhere will be invited to join the Workshop.
- 3.3 The Workshop will also discuss ways and methods to engage actively stakeholders and partners including their role in assisting the implementation of the RSOO strategy once approved by the AFI Plan Steering Committee.
- 3.4 The feedback and recommendations from the workshop to be incorporated in the study before being presented to the AFI Plan Steering Committee for adoption, implementation and follow up through the AFI Plan monitoring mechanism.

4. Targeted Group

- 4.1 The participants of this workshop will include primarily delegates from RSOOs, African States, African Union (AU), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Partner States, Industry, Financial institutions, international experts and academia, ICAO Council members and Secretariat.
- 4.2 Approximately more than 100 participants are expected to take part in this workshop.

5. Timing and duration

- 5.1 The workshop will be held on 25th November 2021 from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC

6. Working Languages

- 6.1 The working languages of the meeting will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation.