



International Civil Aviation Organization

**First Meeting of the RASG-MID Steering Committee
(RSC/1)**

(Cairo, Egypt, 18 – 20 June 2012)

Agenda Item 4: Regional Performance Framework for Safety

ESTABLISHMENT OF RSOOs AND RAIOS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to present the outcome of the DGCA-MID/1 meeting related to the establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs) in the MID Region and agree on the necessary follow-up actions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- DGCA-MID/1 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Safety Oversight Manual Doc 9734 Part A provides guidance to assist States with the establishment of a national safety oversight system.

1.2 Part B of Doc 9734 provides guidance on the establishment and management of a Regional Safety Oversight System and outlines the duties and responsibilities of States, individually and/or collectively, with respect to the establishment and management of a regional safety oversight system.

1.3 The following is an extract of the Assembly Resolution A37-8 on Regional cooperation and assistance to resolve safety-related deficiencies:

- promote the concept of regional cooperation, including RSOOs;
- promote assistance to regional safety and safety oversight bodies, including RSOOs; and
- analyse safety critical information for determining effective means of assisting States, regional and sub-regional bodies, including RSOOs.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The DGCA MID/1 was held in Abu-Dhabi, UAE, 22 – 24 March 2011. The meeting was attended by a total of Fifty Six (56) participants, which included experts from Eleven (11) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates) and Five (5) International/Regional Organizations (AACO, ACAC, CANSO, IATA and IFALPA).

2.2 The DGCA-MID/1 meeting noted that safety oversight audits and audit follow-ups conducted by ICAO indicated that a number of States have not been able to implement an effective safety oversight system over their aviation activities due to the lack of adequate resources, specifically in terms of qualified technical expertise. This has led ICAO to conclude that regional or sub-regional safety oversight organizations may be required to overcome this problem through shared objectives, strategies, and activities and, most importantly, that they would enable States to pool resources and thus be able to attract, recruit, and retain appropriately qualified and experienced personnel in the aviation fields.

2.3 The meeting was further informed that the new ICAO Manual on Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organization (Doc 9946, First Edition-2011) has been recently posted by ICAO on the ICAO NET website (<http://icao.int/icaonet/>).

2.4 The meeting noted that in many of the ICAO Regions, Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs) have been considered as the most viable way of meeting the States' safety oversight obligations in an effective and sustainable manner; and accordingly a number of such Organizations have been already established.

2.5 The meeting noted that ICAO, through its Technical Cooperation Programme, has formulated intra-State (Regional/Sub-Regional) projects, known as the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Projects (COSCAPs). It was highlighted that COSCAPs represent the first step towards establishment of RSOOs.

2.6 Based on the above, the meeting recognized that RSOOs and RAIOs represent a viable way of meeting the States' safety oversight obligations in an effective and sustainable manner. However, it was highlighted that prior to the establishment of any RSOO, States willing to participate in this regional/sub-regional project should formulate a strategy that is well-defined in terms of purpose, scope, activities, objectives, duration and the expected results or outcomes. In this respect, the meeting requested ICAO to organize a Workshop on the subject, in order to address the technical, institutional and financial aspects related to the establishment of RSOOs and RAIOs and develop appropriate recommendations and a regional strategy based on identified common priorities and programmes, to enhance States' safety oversight capabilities and solve common safety-related deficiencies.

2.7 The meeting further noted that, one of the options which could be considered is to evolve the COSCAP-GS into a RSOO. In addition, it was further noted that ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB) can play a significant role in this endeavour.

2.8 Considering all of the foregoing, the meeting agreed to the following Conclusions:

DGCA-MID/1 CONCLUSION 1/9 - ESTABLISHMENT OF RSOOs AND RAIOS IN THE MID REGION

That, in order to strengthen their safety oversight capabilities and solve common safety-related deficiencies, in an effective, cooperative and sustainable manner, MID States:

- a) cooperate towards the establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs); and*
- b) further address the subject within the framework of RASG-MID.*

DGCA-MID/1 CONCLUSION 1/10 - WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT PROGRAMMES

That, as part of the Regional preparations for the establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs), the ICAO MID Regional Office organize a Workshop on Regional Safety Oversight Programmes, in order to address the technical, institutional and financial aspects related to these regional/sub-regional projects.

2.9 The meeting may wish to note that, as a follow-up action to the above DGCA-MID/1 Conclusions, an ACAC/ICAO Seminar/Workshop on Regional Safety Oversight Programmes is scheduled to be held in Rabat, Morocco, 10-12 December 2012.

2.10 The main challenges/obstacles for the establishment of RSOOs and RAIOS are as follows:

- lack of a solid regional framework;
- resistance to the change “regional dimension”;
- lack of resources (funds and expertise);
- sovereignty;
- self-sufficiency; and
- lack of coordination of the initiatives:
 - within the region; and
 - with the int’l partners and donors.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) encourage States and all partners to participate actively in the ACAC/ICAO Seminar/Workshop on Regional Safety Oversight Programmes scheduled to be held in Rabat, Morocco, 10-12 December 2012; and
- b) agree on the next course of actions to develop a MID Region Strategy/Action Plan with regard to the establishment of RSOO(s) and RAIO(s) in the MID Region.