



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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French only

## ASSEMBLY — 35TH SESSION

### PLENARY

#### Agenda Item 2: Statements by delegations of Contracting States and of Observers

#### AUTORITES AFRICAINES ET MALGACHES DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

(Presented by the Autorités Africaines et Malgaches de l'Aviation Civile)

#### INFORMATION PAPER

##### International context

The international community, the United States of America and the European Union have embarked upon projects to enhance air transport safety. These are the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) initiated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Safe Skies Initiative of the United States of America and the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) Programme of the European Union (EU) respectively. This approach is the result of the fact of noting that the enhancement of air transport safety was based for a long time on the design of aircraft and the rules for the operation of aircraft, but now it is based more on the effective oversight of operators by States with respect to the application of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

Furthermore, the liberalization of air transport advocated at the continental level by the African Union through the impetus given by World Bank with the Yamoussoukro Declaration and by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC) at the subregional level cannot succeed without proper management of air transport safety.

It is in this context that the ICAO audits have been conducted and that the thinking took place within the framework of the symposium marking the 40th Anniversary of the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA).

The lessons that were learned led to the commitment by the Directors of Civil Aviation (DCAs) to implement an action plan aimed at strengthening their capabilities with respect to safety oversight, particularly with regard to the areas of licensing, airworthiness and the operation of aircraft.

This programme included a study on the organization models that could be considered to allow the DCAs to correctly fulfil their responsibilities in relation to Chicago Convention and the various Annexes thereto.

In its conclusions, this study considered four types of organizations for the civil aviation authorities with a view to facing up to the safety oversight-related responsibilities of their States in the best possible manner. The DCAs considered these proposals during their meeting in Dakar on 13 December 2001. The organization model chosen was based on the European Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) which form an association of Directors of Civil Aviation. This model, called the Autorités Africaines et Malgaches de l'Aviation Civile (AAMAC), is a flexible framework to allow the broadest possible membership for those who wish to participate in it, while still having acceptable operating efficiency.

This cooperative approach to safety oversight is in accordance with ICAO Assembly Resolution A29-13 which invites States to cooperate for the purposes of air transport safety oversight.

### **1. Establishment of the AAMAC**

Meeting in Paris on 18 and 19 June 2001, the DCAs adopted the principle of establishing the AAMAC. In December 2001 in Dakar, they adopted and signed the constitutive memorandum of understanding of the AAMAC and elected its Bureau as follows:

- President: Togo
- Vice-President: Chad
- Secretariat: Senegal
- Members: Mali, Madagascar, Mauritania and Niger

### **2. Objectives of the AAMAC**

The development and publication of common civil aviation regulations.

The definition of a process that will allow the elimination of differences and lead to homogeneous or even uniform regulations.

The training of technical personnel in all aeronautical areas.

The harmonization of the process by which operators obtain administrative documents (approval, AOC, etc.).

### **3. Organization of the AAMAC**

The Council, made up of the 16 Directors of Civil Aviation, defines the orientations and objectives. It is responsible for the development, approval and publication of common regulations (RACAM).

The Secretariat prepares for the meetings of the Council and the Bureau and provides Secretariat services.

The Bureau, chaired by a President who is assisted by a Vice-President and four members of the Bureau, undertakes the AAMAC programme of activities between the sessions of the Council.

#### **4. Implementation**

Five working groups have begun to develop regulations relating to Annexes 1, 6 and 8 and personnel training.

The basic regulations relating to licensing, operations and airworthiness have been completed.

Seven inspectors have already been trained.

Forty people from the Directorates of Civil Aviation (DCAs) have been trained in air transport safety at the African School of Meteorology and Civil Aviation (EAMAC), Niger, with the cooperation of the French National Civil Aviation School (ENAC) and the European Academy For Aviation Safety (EAFAS).

#### **5. Latest developments**

Meetings with aeronautical authorities (October 2002):

- French Directorate General of Civil Aviation;
- Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA).

On 4 April 2003, the President of the AAMAC and the French Director General of Civil Aviation signed a protocol of cooperation on training and exchanges of studies and information. The areas targeted are those covered by Annexes 1, 6 and 8 and this protocol has an initial duration of four years that can be renewed tacitly.

The rules of procedure of the AAMAC were adopted on 9 December 2003 in Dakar, Senegal.

The AAMAC Bureau met in Lomé, Togo, on 1 March 2003 and 19 and 20 April 2004.

The following particularly important points were considered:

- the preparations for USOAP audits with respect to their regulatory framework and personnel training aspects;
- the search for recognition and political support on the part of the ministers in charge of civil aviation;
- it is clear, and unequivocally possible, that the AAMAC are a technical body bringing together aviation experts, whose objective is to develop texts on common regulations (RACAM) which are taken up by subregional organizations such as the WAEMU for its Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Project (COSCAP) programme on air transport safety in Africa.

The other organizations (the CAEMC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Banjul Group and others) can make use of this if they wish. During the AFCAC meeting in South Africa in April 2004, an English-speaking group of 13 countries expressed their wish to join.

The ICAO audits reveal many deficiencies in Africa. As an example, Africa represents 2% of world traffic with an accident rate of 8 to 10%. This is too much. Our fervent hope is that the AAMAC can finally play their role effectively. There will be no duplication possible between the activities of this technical body and those of the subregional groupings that have conventional legal frameworks.

**The prospects for the future are:**

1. Establishment of protocols of agreement:

- AAMAC - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- AAMAC - Central American Agency for Aviation Safety (ACSA)
- AAMAC - JAA (or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA))
- AAMAC - WAEMU
- AAMAC - CAEMC
- AAMAC - Banjul Group
- AAMAC - Groupement pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile (GSAC)
- AAMAC - Bureau Véritas

2. Evolution towards an agency in collaboration with subregional organizations

Together we shall be strong.

Together we shall make the African skies safe so that our air transport in Africa inspires confidence, being safe and secure again and of high quality.

The work done by the AAMAC will be applied in the different subregional organizations which have an appropriate and recognized legal framework.

Frank and close cooperation between the AAMAC and the subregional groupings must be continued and strengthened like that presently in force between the AAMAC and the WAEMU and very soon between the AAMAC, the CAEMC and the Banjul Group.

The political support for the AAMAC project was obtained during the 43rd meeting of the ASECNA Supervisory Committee of Ministers held in Cotonou, Benin, from 2 to 3 July 2004 through the adoption of Resolution No. 2004-CM 43-10 entitled: “**Support for the establishment of the Autorités Africaines et Malgaches de l’Aviation Civile (AAMAC)**”.

### **Member States of the AAMAC**

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Equatorial Guinea  
Gabon  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Senegal  
Togo

Guinea-Bissau has been admitted to be a member of AAMAC.

### **Bureau of the AAMAC**

President: Latta Dokisime Gnama (Togo)  
Vice-President: Mahamat Baba Abatcha (Chad)  
Secretariat: Mamadou Lamine Sow (Senegal)

Members:

- François Randriamahandry (Madagascar)
- Khalilou Bougounno Sanogho (Mali)
- M'Boirik Ould Gharve (Mauritania)
- Amadou Adamou (Niger)

**ASECNA**

**43rd MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

Cotonou, 2 to 3 July 2004

Resolution No. 2004-CM 43-10

**Support for the establishment of the Autorités Africaines et Malgaches  
de l'Aviation Civile (AAMAC)**

The Supervisory Committee of Ministers, meeting in Cotonou on 2 and 3 July 2004,

After hearing a communication on the Autorités Africaines et Malgaches de l'Aviation Civile  
(AAMAC),

Considering the recommendation made by ICAO in Assembly Resolution **A33-9** encouraging  
States to cooperate in addressing air transport safety problems,

Having learned of:

- the information paper on the AAMAC which is aimed at putting in place a legislative and regulatory framework governing civil aviation in each Member State in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization;
- the conclusions of the meeting between the AAMAC and the WAEMU on 9 September 2003; and
- the steps under way to embark upon discussions with the CAEMC and the non-Member States of the WAEMU and the CAEMC with a view to coordinating their activities:

Supports the establishment of the AAMAC;

Requests Member States to give the AAMAC the necessary support for the achievement of the objectives that they have set themselves.

(sgd) Ahamed Akobi  
President, Supervisory Council of Ministers  
Cotonou, 3 July 2004

— END —