



Agenda Item 4: Aviation Safety Matters
4.1 Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) – Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA)

**STRENGTHENING SAFETY OVERSIGHT CAPABILITIES
THROUGH A REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION (RSOO)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the benefits of establishing a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO), which will contribute to strengthening safety oversight capabilities both at the level of the State and the region. The paper also studies factors that need to be considered in the establishment of an RSOO for the Region.

**Strategic
Objective**

This information paper is related to Strategic Objective: A. SAFETY – ENHANCE GLOBAL CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY

1. Introduction

1.1 At the regional meetings held so far, it was determined that States cooperate in the establishment of RSOOs, in order to strengthen safety oversight capabilities and solve common safety-related deficiencies, in an effective, cooperative and sustainable manner.

2. Discussion

2.1 It is widely considered that, as stated in ICAO Doc 9734, *Safety Oversight Manual*, Part B, *The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization*, an RSOO can be an effective means of rectifying safety deficiencies and strengthening safety oversight capabilities, by way of shared resources, objectives, strategies and activities. As discussed at the Symposium on RSOOs held in October 2011, at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal, Canada, an RSOO can provide benefits that include economies of scale and significant cost-savings, derived from the sharing or pooling scarce resources in a region. Other benefits include the harmonization and/or standardization of regulations and best practices and the collective resolution of common safety concerns in the region and better collaboration of matters relating to civil aviation through a regional integration.

2.2 However, it has already been demonstrated that the extent to which an RSOO is effective is dependent on the degree of commitment of its member States, and the extent to which careful consideration has been given in its development, particularly in respect to funding. A most practical and cost-efficient way to establish a sustainable RSOO is to base it on already existing groupings of States, whether they are economic, political or technical in nature.

2.3 Relevant factors should be taken into account during the establishment of an RSOO, in order to ensure that it effectively carries out its mandate and meets its objective. To that end, a comprehensive analysis should be carried out, with careful considerations given to the needs of its member States, the level of available resources, the scope of activities, the level of authority delegated by member States and the contribution to be made by already established agreements in the region.

2.4 In accordance with the strategy for the establishment of an RSOO, the study will therefore have the following scope:

- a) identify available capabilities, common findings and priorities and propose possible scenarios for the establishment of sub-regional safety or safety oversight organizations with a logical grouping of States;
- b) identify the activities to be covered under the sub-regional safety or safety oversight organizations as well as the level and timelines for the transfer of each function to the sub-regional organizations; and
- c) develop detailed frameworks in terms of purpose, objectives, activities, expected results or outcomes, resources, sustainable funding, economy of scale, etc., to ensure the establishment of effective regional/sub-regional safety and/or safety oversight organizations.

2.5 The study will result in well-defined legal, organizational and financial frameworks for the RSOO and a work plan for its establishment, with clear deliverables and timelines, should it be agreed to proceed with the proposal.

3. Conclusion

3.1 States are invited to agree to the conduct of a study, as referred to in paragraph 2.4 and call for contributions and support for the conduct of the study.