



Twenty - Eighth Regional Aviation Safety Group — Pan America Executive Steering Committee Meeting (RASG-PA ESC/28)

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Agenda Item 4: RASG-PA Special Interest Briefing – ICAO HQ

REPORT ON THE FORUM ON REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATIONS (RSOOS) FOR GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents a report on the Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organisations (RSOOs) for Global Aviation Safety which was held from 22 to 24 March 2017 in Ezulwini, Swaziland. The Forum resulted in a Global Strategy and Action Plan, for the Improvement of RSOOs and the Establishment of a Global System for the Provision of Safety Oversight, and the Ezulwini Ministerial Declaration on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations in Africa.

Action:	Suggested Action is presented in Section 5.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safety Oversight Manual Part B The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (Doc 9734 Part B)</i> • <i>Global Aviation Safety Plan 2017-2019 (Doc 10004)</i> • <i>Second High-Level Safety Conference 2015 Report (Doc 10046)</i> • <i>Assembly Resolution A39-14: Regional cooperation and assistance to resolve safety deficiencies, establishing priorities and setting measurable targets (Doc 10075)</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 The Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organisations (RSOOs) for Global Aviation Safety, co-organised by ICAO and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), was held from 22 to 24 March 2017 in Ezulwini, Swaziland. The Forum comprised two days of global discussions followed by one day dedicated to the Africa region at Ministerial level. The meeting was attended by 200 participants from 48 States and 32 international organizations, including Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation from 13 States in the AFI Region, namely Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The event report, programme, participants list, presentations, and resulting Global Strategy and Action Plan and Ministerial Declaration are available at <http://www2010.icao.int/ESAF/EASA-ICAO-RSOO-2017/Pages/default.aspx>

2 Background

2.1 ICAO and EASA, building on their common interest in the evolution of the ICAO and global framework for regional mechanisms to support State aviation safety oversight, co-organised a joint Global Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations in Ezulwini, Swaziland, from 22 to 24 March 2017, hosted by the Kingdom of Swaziland.

3 Discussion

3.1 The event endorsed a proposal for a new global aviation safety oversight system (GASOS), while making significant progress on key objectives to improve the cooperation and efficiency of RSOOs – both globally and in ICAO’s Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) Region. RSOOs are an integral component of global aviation safety, and provide a very effective mechanism for regional groups of States to pool their resources and benefit from economies of scale to resolve their safety oversight deficiencies.

3.2 The primary objective of the GASOS is the implementation of an enhanced safety oversight model that resolves the challenges faced by current regional and national based models, caters for future challenges posed by a rapidly expanding air transport industry and offers practical and affordable options in the area of safety oversight. Under the GASOS, an ICAO recognized safety oversight provider will be any international, regional or sub-regional aviation safety oversight body that carries out tasks and functions on behalf of a State or group of States. Suitably empowered and strengthened RSOOs and other State safety oversight providers will constitute the building blocks of a global safety oversight system.

3.3 All ICAO recognized safety oversight providers will have to demonstrate competence in the tasks and functions that they provide, in order to qualify for ICAO recognition, and ICAO will maintain an inventory of competent safety oversight providers, and the tasks and functions that they provide. An ICAO recognized safety oversight provider could include the civil aviation authority of a State that provides assistance to another State, or an RSOO that carries out safety oversight tasks and functions. The Global Strategy and Action Plan for the Improvement of RSOOs and the Establishment of a Global System for the Provision of Safety Oversight is included in **Appendix A**.

3.4 A Ministerial event held in conjunction with the Forum also led to the signing of a formal Declaration on how African States will work to refine their collaborative efforts and improve aviation safety oversight continent-wide. The regional Forum was informed with presentations on the AFI Plan, outcomes of the Global Forum, and a proposed roadmap for supporting and strengthening RSOOs in the AFI Region. The Ministers then reviewed and adopted the proposed ministerial Declaration, including the development of a Strategic Plan for Supporting and Strengthening RSOOs in the AFI Region and an action Plan to implement the above-mentioned Declaration by ICAO through the AFI Plan and in collaboration with AFCAC and partners. The regional Ministerial Declaration endorsed the newly proposed GASOS, an action plan to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of RSOOs, and a new cooperative platform for RSOOs to facilitate the agreed evolution in regional collaboration. The Ezulwini Ministerial Declaration on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations in Africa is included in **Appendix B**.

4 Conclusion

4.1 The RSOO Forum represented a major milestone in the evolution of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations for civil aviation safety. The development of GASOS will provide the required ICAO framework for RSOOs to be recognised to provide States effective support for safety oversight. The participation of government Ministers helped to ensure the shared objectives and commitments for collaborative AFI Region safety oversight being formalized through the Declaration. ICAO will lead the implementation of the Action Plan supporting the new global strategy.

5 Suggested Action

5.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of this paper;
- b) endorse the following Draft Conclusion; and
- c) request the Secretariat to circulate the Draft Conclusion to States by correspondence for approval using the fast track procedure as a RASG-PA Conclusion by 30 June 2017.

DRAFT CONCLUSION

RASG-PA ESC/28

REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATIONS (RSOOS)

That States endorse the implementation of the global strategy and action plan to improve RSOOs and the establishment of a global aviation safety oversight system (GASOS).

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