



ICAO

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WORKING PAPER

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**Eleventh North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting
(NACC/DCA/11)**

Varadero, Cuba, 28-30 June 2023

**Agenda Item 4: NAM/CAR Regional Safety/Air Navigation Implementation
4.1 Safety Implementation Matters**

**IMPORTANCE THAT MEMBER STATES ESTABLISH THE FRAMEWORK FOR AIG COORDINATION
MECHANISMS IN VIEW OF THEIR NEEDS TO IMPROVE ASSISTANCE IN THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
PROCESS**

(Presented by Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper outlines the need to provide Cooperation Mechanisms with a framework recognized by its Member States according to the experience they have been supplying in terms of assistance, in order to bolster important aspects such as the initial response to accidents, the support to the establishment of critical elements and the assistance or accompaniment during the accident investigation processes, contributing to the sustainability of the investigation system and the aeronautical system.	
Action:	Under paragraph 3
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1 - Safety
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doc 9946 RAIO Manual

1. Introduction

1.1 Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation represents a major challenge for States in their obligation to comply with Annex 13 and the commitment to improve safety as a result of the findings of investigations and the implementation of safety recommendations.

1.2 To improve the implementation of Annex 13, significant efforts have been made by the States. The execution of agreements between the States and COCESNA for Accident Investigation Assistance, through the States' AIG Specialists; the execution of agreements with States in other regions; the training provided to investigators; and recently, through the integration of GRIAA's assistance process into COCESNA's quality management system in order to obtain the ISO 9001 certification, thus guaranteeing better assistance to Member States.

- 1.3 A key regional effort has been the AIG Turnkey Project, formulated and facilitated by the ICAO NACC Regional Office, which represents a comprehensive training around the development of all Critical Elements of Accident Investigation that the States must now put into practice.

2. Analysis

- 2.1 When considering the number of resources (training, equipment, regulations and procedures that imply a considerable workload and time so they are formulated and kept up to date) to establish and operate the entire accident investigation system individually for each State, the challenges are still significant.
- 2.2 It is regarding this important point that the sharing of regional resources to achieve common objectives comes into play, thus contributing to the States' ability to meet their commitments to accident investigation and the enhancement of safety. For this task of sharing resources and assisting in the different phases of the investigation, the States have found in the Accident Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms (ICM) a solution that can be agile to face these challenges, considering the complexity that exists to establish and operate a Regional Accident Investigation Organization (RAIO).
- 2.3 At present, steps have been taken to assist the States through the ICM in some areas of accident investigation, such as providing resources for the initial response and mobilization of investigators, resources for sending parts to manufacturers, and the formulation of procedures and regulations. However, to this day, there is no defined framework of action for these ICM, which would make it possible to know the extent to which they can support the work of accident investigation and enable integration in the investigation activities of the States to make better use of existing resources, thus being able to provide support in the execution of a large number of procedures and formats in all phases of the investigation, which require resources that the States do not currently have.
- 2.4 The above raises the need for States, with the support of ICAO, to define a pilot framework for Accident Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms (ICM), so as to enhance the assistance provided so far and add a more operational phase of support at the time of investigations, being aware and understanding that the responsibility for the investigations will always be that of the State of the event.

3. Actions:

3.1 The Meeting is requested to

- a) Consider the experience of the existing Accident Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms (ICMs) of the different regions (GRIAA/ARCM, etc.); the support they have provided to their Member States and way in which resources and subject-matter experts have been shared; and
- b) Endorse the recommendation that States, with the support of ICAO, establish a pilot framework for Accident Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms (ICM), which will allow them to enhance accident investigation assistance, contributing to States' better compliance with Annex 13.

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