



ICAO

**Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/24)
(Virtual – 2 to 4 November 2021)**

Agenda Item 3: Performance Framework for Regional Air Navigation Planning

3.3 AFI Air Navigation Deficiencies

**CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WITH THE AFI AIR NAVIGATION
DEFICIENCY DATABASE (AANDD)**

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY	
<p>This Paper highlights the challenges experienced with the operationalization of the AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database. These challenges are a barrier for implementing the Decision 1/3 of AAO SG/1 Report, WP31 of the ICAO Secretariat presented at APIRG/21, which recommended that the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices facilitate the effective and uninterrupted use of the AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database (AANDD), including effective user support of the web-based system,</p> <p>The Paper further raises concerns with the inaccessibility to the system and lack of training in the AANDD and the financial impact of implementing the ICAO Audit Guidelines.</p> <p>Action by the Meeting in paragraph 3.</p>	
Strategic Objectives	<p>Strategic Objective (a) Safety</p> <p>Strategic Objective (b) Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the APIRG/17 Meeting; the Secretariat had been requested to expedite the development of the web-based AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database (AANDD), as a tool for States and Organisations to contribute to the Deficiency Database. The readiness of this database was confirmed on the 24th of May 2017.

1.2 The aim of this database is to enable a wide range of users the opportunity to report their deficiencies, using the AANDD tool, to allow for the formulation of the appropriate corrective action plans to facilitate the follow-up and resolution of deficiencies. However, the database has not been implemented to date.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 South Africa acknowledges that work has been done which addresses some of the challenges relating to:

- a) Consider a review of the operations of the AANDD System, to address the identified shortcomings with the use of this database; and
- b) Conduct a form of interactive training to ensure effective user support to the AANDD Focal Points; as well as the establishment of a communication channel address queries.

It has been noted that there has been a fundamental change in the spread of areas now contained in the Minimum Reporting Areas, which has been expanded as highlighted in the AAO SG/3 WP15, where the minimum reporting areas now include Classification of Airspace, Language Proficiency, Performance-based Navigation, Airspace Management, Air Traffic Services; Reduced Separation Minima, Flight Information Services, and others. This has been considerably expanded from the traditional consideration of Communication, Navigation and Surveillance, as well as Search and Rescue.

2.2 Whilst South Africa welcomes the expanded areas contained in the Minimum Reporting Areas, the inaccessibility to the AANDD System makes it impossible for member States to upload documentation required for the expanded Minimum Reporting Areas. South Africa would like to raise the following concerns:

- a) During the AAO SG/3, under Agenda Item 6, an undertaking to ensure the recruitment of suitably qualified/trained ICT personnel at both Regional Offices are made available to resolve IT and Process challenges such as the uploading of evidence and confirmation of receipt of updates by the Regional Offices. This has not been completed.
- b) The Regional Offices had undertaken to conduct an interactive empowerment session with focal points regarding use of the AANDD. While a short course was held by ICAO on the 14th of December 2020; with a further undertaking that an interactive session would be held once the challenges identified with the AANDD system was resolved and ready for implementation. This was reiterated during the AAO SG/4 Meeting; where it was advised that the Regional Offices would conduct this training by November 2021. Further formal confirmation has not as yet been received.

2.3 South Africa has become aware that the ICAO Audit which includes a Protocol Question (PQ) No 7.045. Guidance received from ICAO, is as follows:

To review mechanism to incorporate the deficiencies into a national repository that enables the following:

- a) tracking;
- b) analysis;
- c) assignment of responsibility;
- d) determination and registration of corrective and preventive actions as appropriate;

- e) assignment of timelines; and
- f) review of effectiveness of actions taken.

2.4 Considering the inaccessibility to the system and lack of training in the AANDD, this implies that Member States could be required to procure a database to perform the same functions as that expected of the AANDD; to ensure a favorable outcome of an ICAO Audit. Given the expanded minimum reporting areas; procurement of such a database would not be feasible; considering that the AANDD will be the official database which States must utilize for reporting, when it is up-and-running.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING;

3.1 **The meeting is invited to support the adoption of the following draft conclusions:**

3.1.1 Draft Conclusion X/xx : Operationalisation of the AANDD System

That;

- a) ICAO to provide a report on the impact of the inaccessibility and the operationalization of the Database; as well as the resolution of IT and process challenges identified with the AANDD System by xx 2021.
- b) ICAO to confirm communication systems to be instituted between the ICAO and their respective Member States to support the resolution of Challenges experienced by Member States by XX 2021.

3.1.2 Conclusion X/xx: Confirmation of the Interactive Training:

That;

- a) ICAO to conduct interactive training on the AANDD System for AANDD Focal Points by XX 2021.

3.1.3 Draft Conclusion X/xx: Alignment of the AANDD to address National- and Regional Deficiency Database requirements address duplication and the impact on PQ 7.045:

- a) ICAO to conduct a Feasibility Study on utilization of the AANDD as a single reporting mechanism by xx 2021;
- b) ICAO to conduct a study of possible alternatives utilized by Member States to mitigate the impact of PQ 7.045 until a fully-functional AANDD is available, by xx 2021.