



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

### FIRST MEETING OF THE AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP (RASG-AFI/1) Kampala, Uganda (26 – 27 March 2012)

#### **Agenda Item 4 : Status of implementation of SP AFI-RAN Meeting Recommendations and Follow-up**

#### **IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION OF SIGNIFICANT SAFETY CONCERNS (AFI Cooperative Inspectorate Scheme (AFI-CIS) to assist States in resolving the State's safety Oversight Deficiencies)**

*(Presented by AFCAC)*

#### **SUMMARY**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> AFCAC (extraordinary) plenary session in December 2010 Dakar, Senegal reviewed and supported the Proposal for the Establishment and management of an AFI Cooperative Inspectorate Scheme (AFI-CIS) as agreed by the AFCAC/ ICAO joint meeting on the Improvement of Aviation Safety in Africa, 17 – 19 August 2010.

The Plenary adopted the project with the aim to assist African States to achieve a 10% annual reduction in their Lack of Effective Implementation (LEIs) over a period of two years and to remove all African States from the ICAO Audit Results Review Board (ARRB now referred to as the MARB) list within the same period.

To fulfil the decision by the AFCAC Plenary, a pilot project was launched by AFCAC with the technical assistance of ICAO in August 2011. The initial pilot missions were conducted to Gabon and Zambia. The pilot missions were fully funded by AFCAC.

#### **Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In order to eliminate safety deficiencies and enhance aviation safety in the AFI Region, AFCAC, with technical support from ICAO, launched the AFI-CIS project in August 2011. The first AFI-CIS assistance Missions were conducted to Zambia and Gabon. Zambia has been identified with Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), whereas Gabon is currently listed on the Audit Results Review Board (ARRB) due to significant lack of effective implementation of the ICAO SARPs.

1.2 The aim of the AFI-CIS project is to create a pool of qualified and experienced Aviation Safety Inspectors from within the AFI Region to provide assistance to African States in addressing their safety oversight deficiencies with emphasis and priority given to States identified with Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) and those currently on the Audit Results Review Board (ARRB). Assistance will also be provided to States in resolving safety oversight deficiencies in general and reduce Lack of Effective implementations (LEIs).

## **2 PREPARATIONS FOR THE AFI-CIS PROJECT - PILOT MISSIONS**

2.1 AFCAC, with the technical support of ICAO, has selected fourteen (14) inspectors (from six (6) States, two from the COSCAP projects and an RSOO) for the AFI-CIS Inspector refresher training which was held from 8 to 12 August 2011 in Dakar, the Senegal.

2.2 Prior to deployment of Inspectors to Zambia and Gabon, refresher training for the first group of selected AFI-CIS Inspectors was conducted in addition to training on ICAO USOAP Audit Protocol Questions. State-specific briefings on Zambia and Gabon were also provided to the Inspectors. Refresher training on safety oversight, aircraft operations and airworthiness aspects related to certification of operators was conducted to bring the Inspectors up-to-date on matters related to air operator certification.

2.3 The first group of four Inspectors were deployed on a two-week Mission to Zambia on 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2011, immediately after the training in Dakar. A second group of four inspectors undertook a similar assistance mission to Gabon on 22 August 2011.

## **3 AFI-CIS PILOT MISSIONS**

### **3.1 GABON MISSION**

3.1.1 The AFI-CIS Mission to Gabon was conducted from 22 August – 2 September 2011, to assist Gabon address its safety oversight deficiencies related to Finding OPS/01 on the issuance of the Air Operator Certificate (AOC). Gabon was audited in May 2007 under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Programme.

### **3.2 ZAMBIA MISSION**

3.2.1 The AFI-CIS Mission to Zambia was conducted from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011 to 1<sup>st</sup> September to assist the State in addressing its safety oversight deficiencies related to Finding OPS/01 on the issuance of the Air Operator Certificate (AOC). Zambia was audited in 2009 under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Programme.

### **3.3 EVALUATION AND MONITORING**

3.3.1 The two AFI CIS Missions were complemented by joint AFCAC/ICAO evaluation and monitoring Missions. These allowed firsthand assessment of the effectiveness of the AFI CIS Missions and provided additional support/guidance as well as re-orientation, to the extent possible, with the aim of ensuring success of the Missions.

### **3.4 CURRENT SITUATION**

3.4.1 As of March 2012, twenty eight (28) States have signed the AFI-CIS MOU, namely Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon , Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. AFCAC is concentrating its efforts on getting the other States to sign the AFI-CIS MOU with particular emphasis on the SSC States.

3.4.2 So far, only two separate pilot Missions have been conducted to Gabon and Zambia and there is need for continuous engagement of these two States with possible follow-up Missions to ensure that the recommendations and the work completed by the first AFI-CIS Missions are implemented. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to evaluate and provide any quantifiable or precise impact/results from the above activities, because there has been paucity of feedback from States.

3.4.3 In terms of outcome vis-a-vis the TORs and original targets, the level and rate of progress has been deemed unsatisfactory. Consequently, it has been considered necessary to introduce a new approach for strengthening implementation of the project by having the WACAF Office take more responsibility for its planning and execution in consultation and coordination with key players especially the ESAF office. Such an approach is envisaged to provide increased technical and implementation support from the two ICAO Regional Offices, driven by the WACAF Office whilst AFCAC would still remain the administrative and political face of the project.

### 3.5 PROPOSED AFI-CIS PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES – 2012

3.5.1 A detailed activity plan for year 2012 is being proposed for circulation to all concerned. The plan of activities for 2012 is composed of five Missions to five States with two follow-up Missions to each State. The proposed budget for the implementation of the programme is USD 400,000.00 (four hundred thousand United States dollars). It is envisaged that AFCAC will be able to continue to fund the missions. States receiving the assistance should themselves also be willing to contribute towards the cost of the Missions, even if they are not able to bear the cost of the total amount.

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