



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION
SAFETY GROUP FOR AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (RASC/5) – VIRTUAL**

28 October 2020

**Agenda Item 3: The Outcomes of the twenty-third meeting of the AFI Plan Steering Committee -
Virtual**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper provides the outcomes of the twenty-third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan).
REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on the twenty-third meeting of the Steering Committee of the AFI Plan - Virtual; and• Oral Report to the ICAO Council on the twenty-third meeting of the Steering Committee of the AFI Plan – Virtual.
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): <p>This working paper relates to the Safety and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objectives of ICAO</p>

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 The 23rd meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa Steering Committee (AFI Plan SC/23) was held virtually on 29 July 2020. 122 participants attended the meeting from ICAO member States, the ICAO Council and the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), the ICAO secretariat, officials of invited regional organizations, industry and other partners and stakeholders.

1.2 The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO. During the meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed the progress made with respect to the Decisions and Recommendations of the 22nd meeting and the overall implementation of the 2020 programme activities. The meeting was also updated on and provided with information, among others, on the progress of implementation of several projects funded under the AFI Plan, the implementation progress on the revised Abuja Safety targets and ANS indicators, the progress made in implementing the aviation training roadmap for Africa as well as partners' contributions and programmes within the context of the AFI Plan.

2. DISCUSSION:

2.1 Despite the adverse impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation performance of the programme activities; notable improvements were recorded in the areas of State safety oversight, the resolution of Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), international airport certification, the establishment and strengthening of Regional Safety Oversight and Accident Investigation Organizations, and most importantly the area of capacity building achieved through the delivery of safety-related trainings. The direct support activity of the Programme coupled with the efforts made by States contributed to a number of African States registering significant improvements in their safety oversight systems as evidenced by the increase in effective implementation (EI) of the critical elements. The number of African States with EI of 60 per cent and greater has been increasing steadily and has now reached 31; while exemplary commitment and efforts were exerted to collaboratively resolve the SSC of Cote d'Ivoire within five months from the date of its identification, considering the existing challenging period.

2.2 Apart from the traditional State support mechanism, the AFI Plan has been implementing specific projects in the areas of Aerodrome Certification, Search and Rescue (SAR), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review, SSP-SMS implementation, Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG), Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO) and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) to further assist States in achieving an acceptable level of aviation safety. The implementation of the projects is progressing well and some of the projects such as Aerodrome Certification Project have already led to the certifications of 12 international Airports in 11 AFI States. Additional States such as Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Gambia, and Seychelles have recently shown significant progress in this area.

2.3 Following the appointment of Capt Musa Nuhu (former Chairperson of the AFI Plan Steering Committee) as Director-General of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority in February 2020, the AFI Plan SC/23 meeting elected a new Chairperson to steer the affairs of the Committee.

2.4 The 2017-2020 AFI Plan work programme is currently guiding the implementation activities of the Plan. As the programme period will elapse end of 2020, there is a need to update the current programme document with some additional key deliverables and targets to be pursued through future AFI Plan initiatives. The meeting was provided with a draft-updated document with a planning framework for the coming four-year period (2021-2024) for its guidance and consideration.

2.5 The following Decisions and Recommendations are the key outcomes of the 23rd meeting of the AFI Plan Steering Committee:

- a) The Secretariat to present to the ICAO Council the results that have been obtained over the years through the implementation of the AFI Plan and the continued compelling relevance of this programme to improve aviation safety in Africa;
- b) The AFI Plan Secretariat continues the process of recruiting a consultant and finalize the Strategic Plan for supporting and strengthening RSOOs in Africa and organize a stakeholders meeting to validate the final draft strategic plan prior to presenting to the Steering Committee for approval;
- c) Requested that the Secretariat continues with the implementation of AFI Plan Projects on Aerodrome Certification, State Safety Programme (SSP), Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSP) Peer Review, Search and Rescue (SAR), Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO), Aircraft

Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG) and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM);

- d) Requested the AFI Plan Secretariat to review and update all projects under AFI Plan in line with the deliverables and targets under the proposed AFI Plan Planning Framework (2021-2024)
- e) Requested that the Regional Office Safety Team (ROST) and AFI-CIS virtual assistance as well as on-site missions be continued so as to further assist States in the implementation of their USOAP Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and to specifically address the remaining one SSC in the region and improve EIs in low performing States;
- f) Encouraged the ICAO Council President and the Secretary General to continue to engage, at the highest level, especially during regional meetings and virtually where necessary, Authorities of those States that are not cooperating with ICAO and/or sufficiently advancing in addressing their aviation safety deficiencies;
- g) Request the AFI Plan Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the outcomes of the Aviation Infrastructure for Africa GAP analysis with partners to mobilize the necessary resources;
- h) Request the AFI Plan Secretariat to closely work and support the Association of African Aviation Training Organization (AATO) on the critical organizational challenges that it's currently facing;
- i) Request AATO in collaboration with Global Aviation Training Office (GAT) and other key stakeholders to continue implementing the Aviation Training Roadmap and continuously update it;
- j) Request the AFI Plan Secretariat in collaboration with GAT to organize critical training on aviation safety including management and strategy, taking into consideration the current challenges related to COVID-19;
- k) Recognized the various support activities of partners and recommended continued and stronger collaboration between sister programmes to continuously improve aviation safety in Africa;
- l) Recognized the commendable work done in collaboration with partners for the successful production of the 6th Edition of the RASG-AFI Annual Safety Report (ASR); and
- m) The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Levers Mabaso, Representative of South Africa on the ICAO Council, to serve as the Chairperson of the AFI Plan Steering Committee.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING:

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the outcomes of the 23rd AFI Plan SC meeting;
- b) Provide guidance to continue coordinating programme activities between the RASG-AFI and AFI Plan to avoid duplication of efforts; and

c) Provide further guidance as deemed necessary.

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