FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP FOR AFRICA- INDIAN OCEAN (RASG-AFI/4)

(Nairobi, Kenya, from 12 to 13 October, 2017)

CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM 1: REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND MEETING WORK PROGRAMME

The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Draft Agenda and Work Programme as presented.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF THE RASG-AFI CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

The new RASG-AFI Bureau members consisting of the Chairperson, First and Second Vice Chairpersons, all of whom are designated Representatives of States and a Third Vice-Chairperson, as an Industry Representative, were elected as per the following Decision:

Decision 4/1: Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons

That,

The Group elected the following Officials in line with the provisions of the RASG-AFI Procedures Handbook:

Chairperson - Mr. Levers Mabaso,
Acting Chief Director,
Civil Aviation Safety, Security and SAR,
Department of Transport,
Republic of South Africa

1st Vice-Chairperson - Col. Dokisime Gnama Latta,
Director General,
Togo CAA

2nd Vice-Chairperson - Capt. Gilbert Kibe,
Director General,
Kenya CAA

3rd Vice-Chairperson - Ms. Tanja Grobotek,
Regional Director, Safety and Operations,
IATA, Africa

AGENDA ITEM 3: GLOBAL SAFETY UPDATE

The Meeting was presented with an update on the revised Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), the outcomes of the ICAO/EASA Global RSOO Forum including the proposed establishment of the Global Aviation Safety Oversight System (GASOS), Safety Management Implementation; as well as progress on the implementation of the ICAO USOAP CMA. The following Conclusions were formulated respectively:

Conclusion 4/1: Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)

That States are:

a) Requested, in accordance with Assembly Resolution A39-12, to establish a national safety plan, including goals and targets consistent with the regional safety plan, and in line with the GASP objectives, including the global aviation safety roadmap, and based on their operational safety needs; and

b) invited to provide ICAO feedback on the new global aviation safety roadmap and suggestions for the future 2020 -2022 edition of the GASP via email to: GASP@icao.int.

Conclusion 4/2: Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs)

That States,

a) implement the relevant provisions of the Ezulwini Ministerial Declaration on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations in Africa;

b) are urged to support the proposed global strategy and action plan to improve and strengthen existing RSOOs and the establishment of a global system for the provision of safety oversight;

c) endorse the objectives for a global system for the provision of safety oversight; and

d) RASG-AFI organs, and organizations are encouraged to participate in and contribute to the AFI Plan study for the strengthening and improvement of RSOOs in the AFI region as well as the study of a proposed Global Aviation Safety Oversight System (GASOS).

Conclusion 4/3: Safety Management Implementation

That,

States, regional and international organizations are invited to share tools and examples which support effective safety management implementation to be considered for posting on the ICAO safety management implementation website through an ICAO validation process.

Conclusion 4/4: ICAO USOAP CMA Implementation

That,

States are urged to fulfil their obligations under the USOAP CMA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and to take actions, as required, to provide up-to-date information on their safety oversight systems, with particular attention to:

a) the implementation of immediate mitigation measures and sustainable corrective actions for the resolution and avoidance of SSC(s) as a high priority;
b) finalization and submission of draft USOAP Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) on the On-line Framework (OLF), informing the relevant ICAO Regional Office when completed and ready for review;
c) the completion of the compliance checklists/EFOD and update of the SAAQ;
d) implementation of the CAPs, completion of the self-assessment of the PQs on the OLF, uploading of evidences/documents to report the progress and informing the relevant ICAO Regional Office when completed and ready for validation;
e) prioritization of efforts in improving EI levels in the areas of AIG, ANS and AGA; and
f) requesting assistance from the ICAO Regional Office and/or COSCAP/RSOO, if required.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FOLLOW-UP ON CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS OF RASG-AFI/3 MEETING

The Group reviewed the status of implementation of the Conclusions and Decisions of its third meeting held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire in December, 2015, and adopted the following decision:

Decision 4/2: Follow up on RASG-AFI/3 Meeting Conclusions and Decisions

That,

The Secretariat expeditiously follows up and ensures implementation of all the open items in the list of RASG-AFI/3 Conclusions and Decisions and carries over to the Group's future Work Programme items that so require.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT ON RASG-AFI ACTIVITIES

5.1 Safety Support Teams (SSC, FSO, AIG, ESI)

The Meeting was provided with an update on the status of implementation of the various activities and projects of the RASG-AFI Safety Support Teams i.e. Significant Safety Concern (SSC), Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO), Aircraft Accident Investigation (AIG), and Emerging Safety Issues (Loss of Control in-Flight (LOC-I), Runway Safety, Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT), and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM)). The following related Decision and Conclusions were formulated:

Decision 4/3: Intensification of assistance to SSC States

That,

RASC, in collaboration with other relevant partners, including the ICAO Regional Offices, AFI-CIS, COSCAPs/RSOOs, and Partner States and organizations maintain and intensify assistance to States in resolving the outstanding SSC(s) -namely Djibouti, Eritrea and Malawi, take proactive steps and put in place effective strategies to prevent the emergence of new ones.

Conclusion 4/5: Development of project proposals for funding by the AFI Plan

That,

The RASG-AFI Secretariat in collaboration with the relevant Safety Support Teams (SSTs) and other stakeholders, develops and submits new project proposals in the areas of FSO, SSC, AIG, AIM, etc. to the AFI Plan Steering Committee for funding consideration.

Conclusion 4/6: Participation in Seminars, Workshops and Training

That,

States, organizations and industry increase their participation in Seminars, Workshops and Training organized by ICAO and other partners within the framework of activities of the SSTs to ensure maximum impact and benefit.

5.2 RASG-AFI Annual Safety Report Team (ASRT)

Having considered the work done by the Annual Safety Report Team, in compiling the Third Edition of the RASG-AFI Annual Safety Report (ASR), the meeting commended the ASRT for the regularity of the publication. Note was however taken of the low level of feedback from the readership that was cited as a challenge towards future improvement of the report, and the following Conclusion and Decision adopted:

Conclusion 4/7: Improvement of the production and utilization of the RASG-AFI Annual Safety Report (ASR)

That,

States and organizations:

a) contribute data, make suggestions, provide guidance and participate effectively in the production of future editions of the ASR; and
b) embrace and utilize the Annual Safety Reports to improve their respective levels of safety performance.

Decision 4/4: Use of ICAO data

That,

The Annual Safety Report Team (ASRT) should use ICAO data as much as possible in the preparation of the ASR for consistency with other related reports.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ICAO "NO COUNTRY LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)" INITIATIVE AND ASSISTANCE

6.1 Implementation of State-specific ICAO Plans of Action

The Meeting was briefed on the status of development and implementation of State-specific ICAO Plans of Action for effective safety oversight in AFI States. The following Conclusion was formulated:

Conclusion 4/8: Development/Implementation of ICAO Plans of Action in all States

That,

In line with AFI Plan Steering Committee Decision SC19/03, States that have accepted an ICAO Plan of Action fully commit to its implementation and for those that are yet to have one, to coordinate with their accredited Regional office for the development, acceptance and implementation of such a Plan.

6.2 Status of Implementation of the AFI Plan Projects

The Meeting was informed of the status of implementation of the various on-going AFI Plan projects viz: for Aerodrome Certification, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) Peer Review, State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation and Search and Rescue (SAR) Organization. The following Conclusion was formulated:

Conclusion 4/9: Request for AFI Plan Support to States through safety oversight improvement projects

That,

States, Airport Operators, ANSPs and all stakeholders strengthen their commitment and intensify efforts in the implementation of the on-going AFI Plan funded projects in the areas of Aerodrome Certification, SAR Organization, SSP Implementation and ANSP Peer Review, as well as new ones to be proposed under RASG-AFI SST activities, and ensure timely resolution of existing deficiencies and accomplishment of project objectives.

6.3 Proposed amendments to the AFI Plan Programme Document and the Terms of Reference for the Regional Office Safety Teams (ROST).

The Meeting was presented with the draft updated Programme Document of the AFI Plan for the period 2017-2020 and the revised Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Regional Office Safety Teams (ROSTs) for comments, suggestions and inputs.

The Group was informed that the draft documents will be submitted to the AFI Plan Steering Committee in December 2017, for consideration and approval and were therefore being submitted as a means to gather the views of stakeholders for purposes of improving the quality of the documents.

The Group was further informed that the revision and updating of these documents are in response to the recommendations of an evaluation exercise conducted by the ICAO Evaluation and Internal Audit Office in 2015. The following Conclusion was formulated accordingly:

Conclusion 4/10: Amendment of AFI Plan Programme Document and Regional Office Safety Team (ROST) TORs

That,

States, organizations, and partners provide, through the ESAF and WACAF Regional offices, proposals for amendment to the AFI Plan Programme Document and ROST TORs not later than 31 October 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 7: APIRG/RASG-AFI COORDINATION – REPORT OF THE APIRG-RASG/AFI TASK FORCE

7.1 APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination

Under this agenda item, the Meeting reviewed the report of the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force which covered the allocation of tasks and collaboration between APIRG and RASG-AFI with a view to promoting exchange of best practices and harmonization of activities. The following Decisions were formulated:

Decision 4/5: Implementation of the AFI Air Navigation System Implementation Action Plan aligned with the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) methodology

That,

RASG-AFI addresses the implementation of the relevant safety related Essential and Priority 1 ASBU Block 0 Modules identified by the APIRG/19 Meeting, in coordination with the APIRG and the relevant bodies in line with regional aviation safety mechanisms.

Decision 4/6: Provision of support and assistance for the integration and consolidation of RSOOs in the Region

That,

RASG-AFI and its subsidiary bodies support and provide assistance for the integration and consolidation of RSOOs as part of the drive to strengthen and ensure their sustainability, and efficiency.

Decision 4/7: Composition of the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Task Force (ARC-TF)

That,

a) the Secretariat re-examines and reconciles, in collaboration with the RASC and APIRG Project Coordination Committee (APCC), the needs of all stakeholders regarding representation in and composition of the ARC-TF; and

b) Cyber threats and ANS resilience, RPAS and RSOOs be included amongst the areas of shared responsibility of APIRG and RASG-AFI.

7.2 Outcome of the APIRG/21 Meeting

The meeting reviewed the outcome of the APIRG/21 Meeting held back-to-back with RASG-AFI/4 meeting, with particular attention to areas/issues of common interest to both APIRG and RASG-AFI, and formulated the following Decision:

Decision 4/8: Outcomes of the APIRG/21 Meeting on issues of common interest

That,

The Secretariat and RASG-AFI organs (RASC, SSTs, etc.) examine the Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG/21 and incorporate, as appropriate, the relevant elements in their respective Work Programmes.

7.3 Proposed revised AFI Safety/ANS Targets

The Meeting was also presented with the revised Abuja Safety Targets reviewed by the APIRG/RASG-AFI Task Force in line with AFI Plan SC/19 Rec.07. The Meeting was informed that the targets, which were being revised in accordance with the recommendations of the African Union Commission (AUC) Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meeting on Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, included Safety and Air Navigation Targets as well as the Safety Performance Indicators of the new Aspirational Safety Goals of the GASP. The meeting formulated the following Decision:

Decision 4/9: Review and endorsement of the revised Abuja Safety Targets and new timeframes

That;

The proposed revised AFI Safety/ANS Targets are reviewed with the following observations:

1. Abuja Safety Targets are endorsed subject to:
    a. Replacement of reference to '10% safety margin' in targets 2 and 6 relating to autonomous CAAs and SSP Implementation respectively, with the term 'positive safety margin';
    b. The deadline for resolution of all three remaining SSCs being amended to end of June 2018; and
    c. Replacement of the term 'sustainable' with 'Foundation' SSP in Target 6.
2. Recommendations on ANS Targets:
    a. that target 12 on reduction of Airproxes be improved with the introduction of intermediary steps leading to the aspirational goal of attaining and maintaining zero Airprox,

b. reformulation of targets 13 and 16 on establishment of seamless air navigation services and participation in the African ANS Peer Review programme respectively, to make them more precise and measurable; and
c. to reinforce the methodology for setting targets by determining baselines for all proposed items.

3. the Secretariat re-examines and amends, in collaboration with the RASC and APIRG Project Coordination Committee (APCC), the proposed revised AFI Safety/ANS Targets taking into account the above observations and recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RASG-AFI Work Programme for 2018/2019

Under this Agenda item, the Meeting reviewed and endorsed the proposed RASG-AFI Work Programme including the activities of the subsidiary bodies for 2018 and 2019 and the following Decision was formulated.

Decision 4/10: Review and endorsement of the RASG-AFI Work Programme for 2018/2019

That,

The Group reviewed and endorsed the RASG-AFI Work Programme for 2018/19 and tasked the Secretariat to incorporate the following:

a) outcomes of the APIRG/21 meeting as relevant and applicable to RASG-AFI activities;
b) addressing the new areas of cyber security, RPAS and RSOOs;
c) capacity building activities (workshops, seminars, and training); and
d) any relevant activities identified by the APIRG/RASG-AFI Coordination Taskforce.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

Under this agenda item, the Meeting discussed matters relating to capacity building with emphasis on how to increase the effectiveness of the on-going Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) for Africa initiative. The following Decision and Conclusion were formulated:

Decision 4/11: Identification of capacity building initiatives

That,

The RASC explores various avenues including on-going initiatives of partners aimed at building the capacity of aviation personnel.

Conclusion 4/11: Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) for Africa Initiative

That,

The relevant fora be requested to assess the HRDF for Africa initiative, in order to determine its effectiveness in addressing the capacity building needs of States and seek any improvements necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF RASG-AFI/4 MEETING CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

The draft Conclusions and Decisions of the Meeting were reviewed and adopted as presented by the Secretariat, with some minor amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 11: DATE AND VENUE OF RASG-AFI/5 MEETING

It was agreed that the fifth meeting of the Group (RASG-AFI/5) be held back-to-back with APIRG/22, around April 2019, in the ICAO Western and Central Africa Region.