



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Third Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/23) & Sixth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (RASG-AFI/6) – Joint sessions

(Virtual, 23 November and 2 December 2020)

Agenda Item 2: COVID-19 Impact on Aviation sector: The APIRG/RASG-AFI context

IMPLEMENTING COLLABORATIVE SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT RELATED TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

(Presented by EAC CASSOA)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents the approach on harmonized measures on safety risk management implemented by the EAC States as an approach to mitigating effects emanating from disruption exerted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has taken meaningful measures with the aim to cope with the chaotic situation as well as to devise means and avenues to alleviate effects posed by the pandemic in civil aviation. As a result of this development, ICAO through its Civil Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) coordinated and currently implementing the identified 15 recommendations to facilitate safe and secure operation during return to normal or partial operations. Among other issues, management of safety within the prevailing operational environment under COVID-19 pandemic is of paramount importance. At this juncture, it is generally perceived that building of structures for effective communication, cooperation and collaboration among key stakeholders is vital for ensuring survivability and recovery of the global aviation industry. Among the useful approaches is embracing the principles of flexible and collaborative management of safety risks and oversight of operations during the restart and recovery phases. This approach is considered appropriate as it provides for flexibility and inclusivity among key stakeholders. It is important to reassert that the COVID-19 pandemic has also provided opportunities for a reset in the way global aviation safety is viewed and managed; since the situation has constrained stakeholders to adapt to collaborative approaches in the concept of “*we are in this together*”. As a general rule, the concept of collaborative safety risk management is premised on the reality that key stakeholders in aviation safety are inclined to collectively generate collaboration to allow for collaborative approach in managing safety at this point in the history of civil aviation.

Action to be taken by the meeting is provided at paragraph 3 of this paper.

Strategic Objectives	A, B, D and E
Financial Implications	None
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO Doc 10144 ICAO Handbook for CAAs on the Management of Aviation Safety Risks related to COVID-19. • ICAO Civil Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) Report • High Level Task Force (HLTF) African Aviation Industry restart: Guidance

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.cassoa.org/covid19Flight Safety Foundation – COVID-19 Safety Punch List
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The imperative for collaborative and cooperative approach among stakeholders including the regulators and service providers cannot be overemphasized. It is through collaboration and cooperation within the industry that the EAC region and the world civil aviation industry can maintain safety systems and protect public using air transport system particularly in the disruptive period of COVID-19 pandemic. As the global civil aviation is striving for restart and recovery in terms of operations and economics, the need for managing and maintaining safety risks is equally important. The magnitude of disruption, permeated all areas and this inevitability is constraining aviation players to adapt to holistic approach in dealing with dynamic challenges during these uncertain times. For purposes of managing safety risks in a collaborative manner, the following logical structure of collaboration should be implemented as an all-inclusive (regulator-operator) methodology:

- *Communication, collaboration and cooperation* among the regulators and service providers and other stakeholders should be maintained as part of collaborative decision making (CDM) during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- *Development of mechanism for collection of data and analysis of operational safety* of the air operators, air navigation service providers, aerodrome operators, aircraft maintenance organizations, aviation training organizations and other fixed base operators;
- *Promoting inclusive and collaborative atmosphere between the regulators and operators* in identifying operation hazards, conducting risk assessment processes and identifying mitigative measures in a spirit of “*we are in this together*” using the recommended Bow Tie method or alternative risk management tools;
- *Conducting self-audits, collaborative safety measurements and controls and sharing of safety information* to assess level of effectiveness of the resultant mitigation measures within operational context to ascertain continued safety and confidence of the travelling public during the recovery period.
- *Conduct Safety Performance monitoring (SPM)* to assess level of effectiveness of the resultant mitigation measures within an operational context to ascertain continued safety and confidence of the travelling public during the recovery period.
- *Maintaining collaborative interface* among stakeholders (regulator – operators) as part of collaborative decision making (CDM) related to implementing COVID-19 recovery measures
- *Promote implementation of recommendations* of the ICAO Civil Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) and AFCAC High Level Task Force (HLTF) related to safety risk management at State and regional level for purpose of recovery and in accordance with the ICAO Roadmap to Civil Aviation Recovery;

1.2 The logical structure for collaboration among the stakeholders has been developed and derivative based on the approach contained in *Doc 10144 ICAO Handbook for CAAs on the Management of Aviation Safety Risks related to COVID-19*. During the entire period since the onset of COVID-19, the EAC CASSOA took a leading role in bringing the EAC States into the common ground and devise strategies and means for dealing the issues of safety risk management. As far as possible, emphasis must be laid on upholding *safety management principles* to support risk-based decision-making.

1.3 The new and emerging realities brought by COVID-19 has prompted the regulators across the world to circumspect on the generative ways to management and monitoring of approvals, authorization and certification and licensing in light of the flexibility needed across the aviation system to continue safe operations. It must emphasize that flexibility does not constitute non-compliance and instead, it is a rational, situation-based scenario to deal with a new normal and bracing for resilience in civil aviation.

1.4 In light of the foregoing, the CASSOA facilitated development of guidance for regional adoption and harmonization among the EAC States with full support of the EAC Partner States. The guidance materials are based on the ICAO Doc10144 and including knowledge exchange emanating from the ICAO RSOO – CP (Cooperative Platform) fora.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As an endeavor to managing safety risks during the COVID-19 pandemic, AFI States are constrained to adapt to collaboration especially amongst stakeholders more than ever before. Building of consensus on how to manage compliance requirements such as certification, approvals or authorizations must be considered in a rational and flexible perspective whilst ensuring sustenance of principles of safety risk management. In support of achieving collaboration and cooperation, ICAO has issued an implementation package (iPack) to guide States on deploying safety risk management for purposes of improving decision making for safe operations of aircraft during the pandemic. Since its development during intervening COVID-19 period, the iPack has been useful resource as it consists a set of guidance material, training and tools aimed at facilitating and guiding the implementation of ICAO provisions

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the need for of implementation of safety risk management within the collaborative environment among key stakeholders including the regulators and operators; and
- b) encourage AFI States and RSOOs of the African Continent to promote collaboration among key stakeholders in managing safety risks associated with the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic operational environment