

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
**Seventh Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group
(AAO/SG7)**
Nairobi, Kenya 12-16 August 2024
Agenda Item 3: Achievements in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations
3 D 2 FASTRACKING THE AERODROME CERTIFICATIONS PROCESS
(Presented by CASSOA)

SUMMARY
<p>This paper highlights some of the achievements and challenges in Aerodrome Certification in AFI Region and proposes a way forward to fastrack the process.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is in Paragraph 3.</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S): APIRG Reports AAO/SG Reports</p>
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): Safety and Air navigation capacity and efficiency</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 There have been various initiatives to support the Certification of Aerodromes in the AFI Region with States and International organizations supporting process. The Aerodrome certification ensures the safety of aerodrome operations from infrastructure, equipment, personnel, and procedures. The AFI Plan Steering Committee is one of the initiated project-based approach to assist states in achieving aerodrome certification. This project, launched in June 2018, focuses on supporting states with varying levels of compliance, particularly in Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa, under the "No Country Left Behind" initiative. The project was designed to integrate additional states and airports based on progress in their compliance efforts.

1.2 The ongoing implementation of the Decisions and Recommendations from the previous meeting is crucial for advancing the goals set forth by the organization. One of the reports highlights several areas where significant progress has been made, including the implementation of the AFI Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) Strategic Plan. These initiatives have supported various African States in enhancing their aviation safety oversight capabilities and certifying key aerodromes.

1.3 However, challenges persist, particularly in maintaining momentum and ensuring that all States meet their safety oversight obligations. The report notes that while some States

have made notable progress, others continue to face difficulties, particularly in implementing the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) required to address safety deficiencies.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 International Requirements

Compliance with international requirements remains a challenge especially in alignment of the national regulations with international requirements. There may be need to consider regional certification bodies to support the process.

2.2 Challenges Identified

Several challenges have been identified in the implementation process, including financial constraints, lack of technical expertise, and varying levels of commitment among member states. Regional bodies may need to explore funding mechanisms to support States. The Region may need to fully embrace the No Country Left behind initiative through capacity building activities such as Aerodrome Certification trainings and workshops.

2.3 Stakeholders Responsibility

Successful implementation requires the active participation of all stakeholders, including national aviation authorities, airlines, airport operators, and international organizations. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the implementation process. Encourage collaboration among stakeholders to share best practices and resources.

2.4 The Way Forward

To overcome the identified challenges and ensure the successful implementation of the decisions and recommendations, a strategic approach is required. This involves setting realistic milestones, ensuring transparency in reporting, and fostering international cooperation by leveraging on synergy by all Stakeholders. The following guidance is provided to ensure continued progress:

1. **Enhance Capacity Building Efforts:** States that are lagging to be prioritized for targeted capacity-building initiatives, including training and deployment of technical assistance teams to help implement their CAPs effectively.
2. **Strengthen Regional Cooperation:** Encourage stronger collaboration among States and regional organizations to share resources, best practices, and expertise, particularly through the AFI CIS and AFI CES frameworks.
3. **Accelerate Aerodrome Certification:** Efforts should be intensified to support States that have not yet certified key international aerodromes. The need for more financial resources by all stakeholders will be beneficial.
4. **Monitor and Adjust Work Programmes:** Regular monitoring of the implementation status to be conducted, with adjustments made to work programs as necessary to

address emerging challenges and ensure that objectives are met within the set timelines.

5. **Sustain High-Level Engagements:** Continued high-level engagement with States, particularly those with low Effective Implementation (EI) scores, is crucial. These engagements need to focus on securing political commitment to aviation safety and the allocation of necessary resources.

3.0 ACTION BY THE MEETING.

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

1. Note the information in this working paper;
2. Urge States that have not done so to commit to the full implementation of their CAPs and to actively participate in capacity-building initiatives; and
3. Urge Regional Organizations to facilitate the sharing of expertise and resources among member States, fostering a collaborative approach to aviation safety oversight.