



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 30 : Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

CANSO SEANS-SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

(Presented by the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CANSO Standard of Excellence in Air Navigation Services – Safety (SEANS-Safety) programme, developed by Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) offers air navigation services providers (ANSPs) a means by which to assess the level of maturity of their safety management systems (SMSs). A more objective and thorough method than a self-assessment questionnaire that most ANSPs undergo annually, the SEANS-Safety assessment provides ANSPs and their regulators with confidence that their SMSs meet ICAO Annex 19 requirements. Additionally, SEANS- Safety allows ANSPs to identify weaknesses in their SMSs and to strive to exceed both ICAO and regulatory requirements.

States should fully take into account the outcome of the CANSO SEANS-Safety reports, the ANSP self-assessment and peer reviews in their safety oversight evaluations.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) recognise SEANS-Safety as an industry-led initiative by CANSO to improve the assessment and performance of safety maturity systems of air navigation services providers ; and
- b) note that States can use the SEANS-Safety evaluation as part of their ANSP assessment.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives on Safety.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	None
<i>References:</i>	Annex 19 — <i>Safety Management</i> Doc 9859, <i>Safety Management Manual (SMM)</i> CANSO Standard of Excellence in Safety Management Systems, Second Edition (2015). https://www.canso.org/canso-standard-excellence-safety-management-systems-0

¹ English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish versions provided by CANSO.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The CANSO Standard of Excellence in Air Navigation Services – Safety (SEANS-Safety) measures the maturity levels the Safety Management Systems (SMS) of air navigation service providers (ANSPs). Based on the CANSO Standard of Excellence (SoE) in Safety Management Systems (SMS), it is aligned to ICAO Annex 19 – *Safety Management*.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 SEANS-Safety provides CANSO Members with an objective, standardised means of assessing and demonstrating ANSP safety management capabilities. SEANS-Safety may also be used as oversight evidence externally, to regulators and ICAO. Through the use of the programme, CANSO Members will be in a better position to standardise the elements of their SMSs, thus facilitating enhanced data analysis, safety risk management and performance measurement, which are enablers for higher overall levels of safety performance.

2.2 SEANS-Safety improves upon the annual self-assessments currently conducted by many ANSPs by formalising the assessments while maintaining programme consistency. ICAO recognition of the results of SEANS-Safety assessments as assurance of an ANSP's SMS maturity level will, in turn, increase the likelihood that national regulators will accept the results.

2.3 The CANSO SoE in SMS supports the clear message from the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), promoted by the ICAO Safety Management Manual (Doc 9859), that achievement of the highest level of SMS maturity is a long-term process that must proceed in a very deliberate step-wise manner. The revised SoE in SMS consists of a system enabler (Safety Culture) and a framework of five components addressing 16 Safety Management elements.

2.4 The SoE in SMS provides a means for ANSP management, and safety managers in particular, to develop a phased plan to enable the step-wise implementation of SMS elements. This approach is based on the experience of the CANSO Members. It is aligned to the principles set out in the ICAO Safety Management Manual (Doc 9859) and promoted in ICAO courses on SMS implementation.

2.5 Currently, CANSO Member ANSPs conduct self-assessments of their SMS maturity levels, using the guidelines in the CANSO SoE in SMS. With the introduction of SEANS-Safety, independent validation of the findings will provide assurance of the actual SMS Maturity level of the Member ANSP.

2.6 Developed in 2017, CANSO SEANS-Safety assessments have been completed at multiple ANSPs across several regions. The methodology is demonstrating a high level of value to ANSPs, and demand continues to grow for future assessments.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 CANSO has aligned 1) its SoE in SMS with ICAO Annex 19; 2) a comprehensive SMS Implementation Guide to aid Members in establishing Annex 19-compliant SMSs; and 3) workshops and seminars to propagate Annex 19-aligned best practices in SMS implementation, safety culture and safety risk management.

3.2 The aviation industry derives a number of benefits from SEANS-Safety, including demonstrating to regulators how ANSPs have met ICAO Annex 19 requirements, and complementing the long-term GASP objective to achieve an advanced safety oversight system including predictive risk management and the safety performance enabler of Standardisation.

3.3 SEANS-Safety is an effective methodology for ANSPs to assess SMS performance and maturity levels. Additionally, the results from a SEANS-Safety assessment could be utilized by ANSPs to demonstrate how they are satisfying ICAO requirements. We invite ICAO to consider using the CANSO SEANS-Safety Assessment as a Safety Indicator for member States ANSPs.

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