



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 40TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 29: Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Regional Implementation Coordination Mechanisms

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STATES MENA RSOO

(Presented by Saudi Arabia on behalf of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritanian, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Referring to the ICAO *Safety Oversight Manual, Part B — The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight System* (Doc 9734) and supporting the goals of Assembly Resolution A39-12 “ICAO Global Planning for Safety and Air Navigation”, the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), in coordination with ICAO, took an initiative to create the Regional Safety Oversight for the Middle East and North African States (MENA RSOO) to support the development and implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) by the member States, and to enhance States’ safety oversight capabilities in order to achieve the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) objectives and regional priorities.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this working paper; and
- b) agree that ICAO continues to support the establishment of RSOOs in the MENA Region.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives...
<i>Financial implications:</i>	
<i>References:</i>	Assembly Resolution A39-12: ICAO global planning for safety and air navigation Doc 9734, <i>Safety Oversight Manual, Part B — The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight System</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with the continuous air safety approach, ICAO has developed several activities and meetings that are critical to identifying or proposing new measures to reduce aviation accidents and the resulting casualties, including the establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organization.

1.2 The experience of existing RSOOs indicates that these are one of the effective means of helping States in implementing their safety oversight responsibilities. They can be a powerful tool to reduce cost and promote uniformity of application of ICAO SARPs.

1.3 Therefore, RSOOs could help in responding to the emerging shortage of aviation professionals through more efficient use of resources. States that participate actively in effective RSOOs stand to benefit the most.

1.4 The Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the Middle East, has initiated the establishment of a regional safety oversight organization in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to support the development and implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) by the member States, and to enhance States' safety oversight capabilities in order to achieve the GASP objectives and regional priorities.

1.5 During the 1st Board meeting composed of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the member States would govern the MENA RSOO held on 1 October 2018 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced formally the hosting of the MENA RSOO and provide financial and technical support for the first two years of operations (two safety Experts and one administrative employee in addition to the premises).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The MENA RSOO is a joint project between ACAO and ICAO. Based on a study carried out in 2015, the primary objective of MENA RSOO would be to assist its member States to develop and implement State Safety Programme (SSP). The MENA RSOO would also, on the demand of individual States, provide assistance to improve States' safety oversight capabilities. The RSOO should perform its duties and functions within the framework of the GASP and should be fully aligned with the Regional Aviation Safety Groups' (RASGs') priorities and objectives.

2.2 Nine (9) States have signed the Letter of Intent related to the establishment of the MENA RSOO during the DGCA-MID/3 meeting held in Doha, Qatar, in April 2015 (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Morocco, Qatar and Saudi Arabia).

2.3 A Board composed of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the member States would govern the MENA RSOO.

2.4 With respect to the legal framework, the MENA RSOO would be established on the basis of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The RSOO Board may decide in the future to transition the MOA to a more formalized intergovernmental agreement or treaty, should there be a need.

2.5 During the Global Ministerial Aviation Summit (GMA) hosted and organized by Saudi Arabia, in Riyadh from 29 to 31 August 2016, Saudi Arabia offered to host the MENA RSOO and provide financial and technical support for the first two years of operations (two safety Experts and one administrative employee in addition to the premises).

2.6 The Summit agreed to the following Recommendation:

MENA RSOO Recommendation

States and Stakeholders are encouraged to:

- a) *support the expeditious establishment of the MENA RSOO; and*
- b) *provide voluntary cash and/or in-kind contribution (seconded personnel, etc.*

2.7 The DGCA-MID/4 meeting held in Muscat, Oman, 17-19 October 2017, supported the proposals of Saudi Arabia and agreed to the following Conclusion:

Conclusion 4/5 – Establishment Process of the MENA RSOO

That:

- a) *the MENA RSOO be governed by a Steering Committee composed of the MENA RSOO member States (both ICAO and ACAC will be part of the Steering Committee);*
- b) *the Steering Committee decides on all the details related to the establishment and operation of the MENA RSOO (organization, funding, etc.); and*
- c) *Saudi Arabia (the host State) is invited to organize the first meeting of the MENA RSOO Steering Committee as soon as possible.*

2.8 During the ACAO General Assembly (GA/24) meeting (Rabat, Morocco, 9-10 May 2018), Saudi Arabia re-confirmed its commitment to support the establishment of the MENA RSOO by hosting the RSOO and providing financial and in-kind support to expedite its establishment.

2.9 The MENA RSOO Board took its 1st Meeting in Riyadh-Saudi Arabia on 1 October 2018, visited the facilities of the MENA RSOO and agreed on the main following recommendation:

- a) *Agreement on the establishment of the MENA RSOO in Saudi Arabia.*
- b) *Agreement on Chairman of the General Authority for Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia, to chair the Executive Committee of the MENA RSOO.*
- c) *Fifteen (15) ACAO member States have signed the Letter of Intent related to the establishment of the MENA RSOO (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritanian, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen).*
- d) *Study of the ICAO project document and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).*
- e) *Action plan for the Establishment of the MENA RSOO.*

3. STEPS FORWARD

3.1 As an outcomes of the First MENA RSOO Technical meeting which was held at the MENA RSOO premises (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2-4 February 2019), it was recommended the following in order to expedite the establishment and operations process:

3.2 **Phase 1:**

3.2.1 Initiate the operations of the MENA RSOO based on the MOA to be signed by the member States during the Second MENA RSOO Steering Committee meeting. This phase includes the following actions:

- The MENA RSOO Steering Committee to designate an official from the member States to resume the position of MENA RSOO Manager.
- Saudi Arabia to assign two technical experts and required support staff.

3.3 **Phase 2:**

3.3.1 Continue the operations of the MENA RSOO according to one of the following options:

- The mechanism contained in the Project Document prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in coordination with the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, which allows for the project to be executed as an ICAO Technical Cooperation Project in accordance with ICAO policies, including recruitment of the experts.
- Any other mechanism to be decided by MENA RSOO Steering Committee, which should be finalized during Phase 1.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) works closely with the ICAO to support the establishment of the MENA RSOOs as an effective means to support the development and implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) by the member States, and to enhance States' safety oversight capabilities in order to achieve the GASP objectives, regional priorities.

4.2 ACAO and ICAO encourage Arab States to invest in and support RSOOs.

4.3 ACAO and ICAO will continue to work with States to establish the mechanisms needed for the pooling and seamless use of Arab inspectors.

4.4 The Assembly is therefore invited to take action as described in the Executive Summary.