



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Ninth Meeting of the AASPG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG9)

Nairobi, Kenya, 13-17 July 2026

Agenda Item 6: Activities to be coordinated with the IIM and SMO Subgroups

THE ANSP PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

(Presented by CANSO)

SUMMARY
This paper presents the activities carried out by CANSO in the context of the resumption of the activities of the AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism after the COVID-19 pandemic. Action to be taken: see point 3
REFERENCE(S): APIRG/22 Conclusion 22/38: ANSP Peer Review Mechanism
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): <i>(a)- Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i> <i>(b)- Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the initiative of the President of the Council, a meeting of the African Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) was held in Montreal on 4 February 2015 to discuss the need to identify ways and means to address some of the challenges facing air navigation services in the Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) region.

1.2 The African ANSPs Peer Review Programme was born out of the desire of African ANSPs to set up a peer review and benchmarking mechanism, following the example of IOSA for IATA (airlines) and APEX for ACI (airports).

1.3 In 2016, a steering group was established to develop a regional framework and mechanism to improve the ANS safety performance in Africa, including Peer Review. It is composed of the following members: ASECNA (Chair), Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), South Africa (Vice-Chair), CANSO (Member and Secretariat), the ANSPs of Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria (Members), ICAO (Member) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) (Observer). It was agreed that ICAO would continue to play an active

role in supporting the initiative through the AFI Regional Offices.

1.4 The framework of the peer review concept and programme objectives as well as its mandate, guiding principles, phases as described in the guidance manual and its appendix forming the basis of the programme and are designed to reinforce the quality objective of this coherent and systematic process.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Objectives of the African Peer ANSP Review Mechanism

2.1.1 The main objectives of the initiative are to:

- a) establish and maintain a consistent level of safety for the AFI region.
- b) Assist African ANSPs in meeting their international obligations for the provision of air navigation services, including Air Traffic Services (ATS), Flight Procedure Design (FPD), Aeronautical Information Service (AIS), Charting (MAP), Meteorology (MET), Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS), and Safety Management System (SMS).
- c) Pooling available tools, human resources, and training and integrating safety and quality reviews into an ANSP-specific safety and quality assurance program to reduce certification costs.

2.1.2 This initiative is part of the revised Abuja Safety Targets and Objectives for the provision of Air Navigation Services in the AFI region which states that: “All States ensure that their ANSPs attain certification by effective participation in the African ANSP Peer Review Programme”

2.2 Progress

2.2.1 ICAO, through its ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices, supports African ANSPs in the effective implementation of this programme. This support has already taken the form of:

- the development of a draft African ANSP Peer Review Programme Manual to establish a review framework encompassing SMS and all areas of the ANS (ATS, CNS, MET, SAR, PANS-OPS, AIM and NAVAID benchmarking)
- the provision of experts for the training in the review framework hosted by ASECNA in Grand Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)

The draft handbook was adopted at the ANSP meeting held from 3 to 5 May 2017 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Cross-reviews were conducted by ASECNA and ANSP Ghana in 2019 to evaluate the draft manual.

A similar initiative was set up by CANSO Africa called CANSO Standards of Excellence (CANSO SoE) and saw the participation of some African Air Navigation Service providers, including Ghana, Eswatini and South Africa.

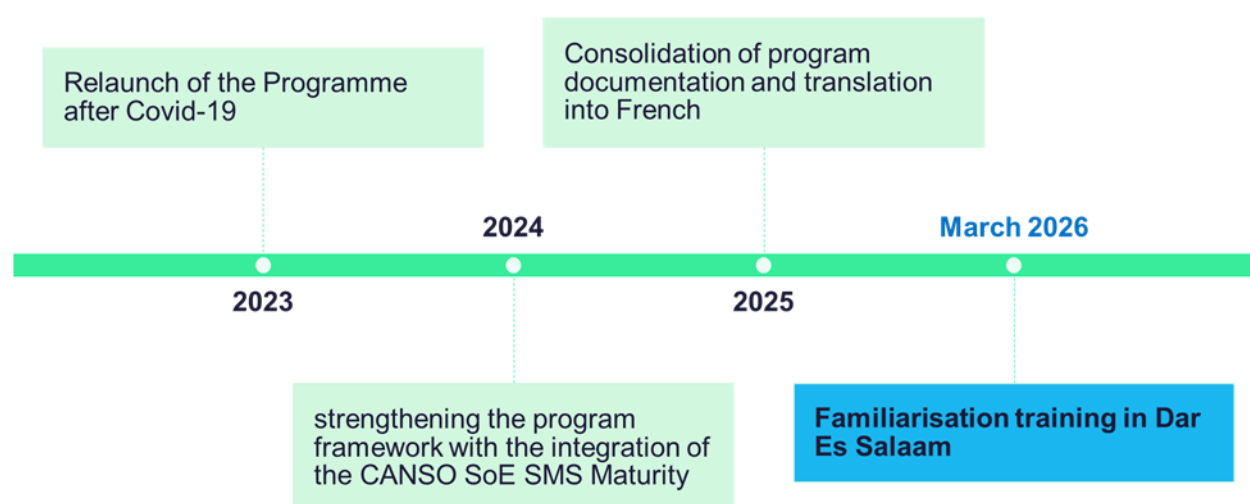
2.2.2 The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of these activities. At their meeting held in Lomé, Togo, from 28 March to 1 April 2022, African ANSPs agreed to relaunch the peer review activities in 2023 by merging all similar initiatives at the continental level, in particular CANSO SoE. To this end, a Task Force led by ASECNA, and composed of experts from ANSPs from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Eswatini, was set up, with the following objectives:

- Merge the draft ICAO program manual with the CANSO SoE manual.
- Produce a single review questionnaire taking into account the new versions of the ICAO protocol questions, and the SMS assessment elements contained in the CANSO SoE manual.
- Translate the revised documentation from English to French to have all the documentation in these two working languages.
- Organize the training of experts to familiarize themselves with the new common framework for reviews by African peer ANSPs.
- Conduct pilot review activities to test the new framework.

2.2.3 The updated draft documents were reviewed by the ICAO Regional Offices and have been finalised considering 2024 version of USOAP CMA audits protocols questions (PQs).

2.3 Prospects

2.3.1 The following figure shows the key achievements after the relaunch of the programme.



2.3.2 The familiarisation training was hosted by Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA). The training workshop was prepared and conducted with the support of ICAO Regional Offices and African ANSP partners (ASECNA, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority).

2.4 Upcoming activities

2.4.1 The upcoming planned activities include

- Conduct pilot reviews to test the newly developed procedures and update the programme framework considering the lesson learned (last quarter of this year).
- Nomination of Programme Management Team (MT) Members composed of AFI ANSP experts (Last quarter of this year). The team is responsible for managing the programme (development, implementation, maintenance and quality). It must be noted that an Interim Management Team has been suggested, and it is awaiting the approval process by the Steering Group.
- Official launch of the programme
- Conduct an additional training session between Q4 - 2026 and Q1 – 2027

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this document,
- b) encourage ICAO for its continued support to the ANSP African Peer Review Programme,
- c) encourage AASPG working groups (SMO/IIM/AAO) to consider this regional programme within their projects as a mean to foster AFI region ANSPs cooperation for safety and operational performance improvement,
- d) request African ANSPs to continue to work together and remain committed as agreed to the African ANSP Peer Review Programme to enhance safety and efficiency of air transport operations in Africa.
