



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

First Meeting of the Africa - Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG/1)

Libreville, 3 - 7 November 2025

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

4.1 Outcome of the Eighth meeting of the Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG8)

Presented by the Secretariat

Summary
<p>This paper presents the outcomes of the Eighth Meeting of the Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG8), held in Dakar, Senegal, from 14 to 18 July 2025.</p> <p>The Sub-Group reviewed the status of implementation of APIRG/27 Conclusions/Decisions applicable to the AAO/SG.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed achievements and challenges in Airspace and Aerodrome operations and proposed follow-up actions. It also reviewed progress on the implementation of ASBU elements as well as the status of air navigation deficiencies and the AFI ANP.</p> <p>Finally, the Subgroup discussed activities requiring coordination with the IIM/SG and SMO/SG and proposed recommendations and actions to be considered by ICAO.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Global Air Navigation Plan ▪ AASPG Procedural Handbook ▪ APIRG/20-APIRG/27 Reports ▪ AAO/SG7 Report
<p>Strategic Objective(s): This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives: A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E - Environmental Protection.</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The meeting was attended by seventy-nine (79) participants from eighteen (18) States and five (5) international and regional Organizations. The ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

2. DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The meeting discussed eleven (11) agenda items as reflected in the Report of the Meeting presented in **Appendix 1** to this Working Paper.
- 2.2 Mr. Nathan Kaluba (Zambia), AAO/SG Chairperson, presided over the meeting. Ms. Aba Fianko Amaglo (Ghana) acted as Vice-Chairperson in place of Mr. Sanogo Adama, who was unable to attend in-person due to unforeseen reasons.
- 2.3 The meeting reviewed the status of the implementation of the conclusions and decisions applicable to the AAO/SG. The status of implementation of AAO/SG Projects, ASBU elements and reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies applicable to AOP and ATM/SAR were also discussed. The meeting further reviewed achievements made by the AAO/SG, the status of the ANP as well as the challenges encountered.
- 2.4 Two (2) draft Conclusions and five (5) draft Decisions were adopted by the AAO/SG8 meeting. This paper presents outcomes of the AAO/SG8 for consideration.

Review of the Conclusions and Decisions of the APIRG/27 meeting applicable to the AAO/SG

- 2.5. The Secretariat reported, that out of the nine (9) Conclusions and ten (10) Decisions of the APIRG/27 and RASG-AFI/10 meetings applicable to AAO/SG, one (1) Conclusion and four (4) Decisions were fully implemented (26%), eight (8) Conclusions and four (4) Decisions are ongoing (63%) while two (2) Decisions were not yet started (11%).
- 2.6 The updated status of implementation of APIRG Conclusions and Decisions from APIRG/20 to APIRG/27 is at **Appendix 2** to this working paper. The meeting was informed that of the 197 APIRG Conclusions and Decisions from APIRG 20 to APIRG 26 previously identified as pending and applicable to the AAO/SG, 117 have either been implemented, become outdated or redundant, or are no longer aligned with current operational or strategic priorities. As a result, these Conclusions and Decisions were deemed no longer applicable, formally closed, and are no longer in force.
- 2.7 The meeting was also provided with updates on the actions agreed during AAO/SG7 meeting which had been included in the AAO/SG 2024/2025 work programme to foster the implementation of outstanding Conclusions and Decisions.

Agenda Item 3: Achievements in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations

Status of implementation of applicable ASBU Elements

- 2.8 The Meeting was updated on initiatives by the ICAO Regional Offices to enhance the collection of data on ASBU implementation in the region through the completed ASBU reporting tool domiciled on the AANDD Platform and the ASBU reporting dashboard domiciled on the

iSTARS. The meeting noted that two (2) familiarization workshops on the ASBU dashboard were held by ESAF Regional Office in March and June 2025, while the one on AANDD is planned to take place in September 2025 for the AFI Region.

AFI ANS Summit

- 2.9 The meeting was updated on the progress made towards the ANS Summit which includes a revised framework encompassing a minimum list of proposed projects in AOP, ATM, PANS-OPS and SAR. This list was identified based on the objectives of the summit and regional gaps in those areas. The revised framework includes activities to be conducted up to 2027, considering the complexity and importance of the programme. The revised framework is at **Appendix 3** of this working paper.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN AIRSPACE OPERATIONS

Status of ATM/SAR Projects

- 2.10 The meeting noted that currently there are eight project teams in ATM/SAR, including seven (7) ongoing projects, and one (1) newly established. The performance status of project teams indicated that most of the ATM/SAR projects were showing significant progress towards their deliverables. It was however noted that there were still outstanding challenges that prevented effective implementation, such as the low commitment of some project team members, lack of States' effective support to the project teams, challenges related to virtual meetings for the project team members and limited access to funds to conduct activities.
- 2.11. The overall progress status of ATM/SAR project teams is provided as **Appendix 4** to this working paper.

Free Route Airspace Project Management Team (FRA PMT) Activities

- 2.12. The Meeting noted that the implementation of Free Route Airspace (FRA) was making steady progress across the AFI region, with several States and FIRs including Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, ASECNA, and Mauritius fully engaged in implementation.
- 2.13. The Meeting discussed the impact of the implementation of cross-border FRA on the operations in the Atlantic Ocean Random Routing Area (AORRA) and agreed on the need for ANSPs involved to ensure proper coordination and alignment of the entry and exit points to/from the FRA airspace with existing entry/exit gate points of the AORRA.
- 2.14. The Meeting was also updated on the User Preferred Routes (UPR) trials which were being carried out in the AFI region with the voluntary participation of five African airlines (Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, RwandAir, Royal Air Maroc and EgyptAir).

AAMP PMT Activities

- 2.15. The Meeting was updated on progress made by the AAMP PMT on the revision of the AFI ATM Master Plan document. The meeting noted that the Project document will be submitted to subsequent AAO/SG meeting for consideration upon maturity.

ATM Contingency Plan PMT (ATM CP PMT) activities

- 2.16. The meeting was informed of the various ATM Contingency activities undertaken by the PMT, ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices as well as coordination with FIRs

adjacent to the AFI Region. Some of the activities included the establishment of a new contingency route in Khartoum FIR over South Sudan above flight level 245, contingency events including three new in Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Togo, and two ongoing in Niger and South Sudan among others.

- 2.17. The meeting was also informed that to align with the provisions of the ICAO Annex 11- Air Traffic Services in line with the airspace resilience arrangement framework called by the 14th Air Navigation Conference, the revision of the AFI ATM CP will be moved from the regional ATM contingency plan to a Regional ATM Contingency Arrangement Framework (RACF).

Flight and Flow Information for a collaborative Environment (FF-ICE) activities

- 2.18. The Meeting was briefed on the activities of the FF-ICE PMT since AAO/SG7. It was noted that the PMT conducted several activities with key achievements including the conduct of a regional webinar in March 2025 under the theme "Demystifying FF-ICE" which aimed at raising awareness and fostering understanding of the concept.
- 2.19. The meeting also noted the challenges in the progress of the work that included limited availability of PMT members and delays in the publication of Volume II of ICAO Doc 9965.

Civil Military Cooperation in ATM activities

- 2.20. The Meeting noted that the AFI CMC PMT had launched a CMC survey campaign targeting the forty-eight (48) AFI States on the status of implementation of ICAO SARPs pertaining to Civil/Military cooperation in ATM with approximately 52% States having responded to the survey at the time of the meeting.

PBN Airspace Concept and AFI Optimized Route Trajectories and Airspace (PBN-AORTA) activities

- 2.21. The meeting was informed that the PBN AORTA PMT, in coordination with the Secretariat, developed the AFI Airspace Optimization Questionnaire and conducted a regional survey on the status of airspace organization and management. The meeting also noted that the PBN AORTA PMT had revised the Terms of reference which as attached as **Appendix 5** to this working paper and agreed on the following draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Revision of the Terms of Reference of the PBN AORTA PMT					
Why:	That to enhance the work of the PBN AORTA Project Management Team and align with the evolution of the GANP and the AFI eANP,				
What:	The revised Terms of Reference of the PBN AORTA Project Management Team is endorsed.				
Who:	AASPG				
When:	7 November 2025				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: N/A	Means to collect data	N/A
	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Air Traffic Flow Management PMT activities

- 2.22. The Meeting was updated on the progress in the establishment of the AFI Air Traffic Flow Management Team (AFI ATFM PMT) which included nomination of members by States and

Organizations and planned kick-off meeting expected in quarter 4 of the year 2025.

Search and Rescue TET (SAR TET) activities

- 2.23. The meeting was informed that the SAR Technical Expert Team (SAR TET) had provided a significant contribution to the development of the documents on search and rescue which included a gap analysis questionnaire and various generic documents in both languages English and French to enhance SAR activities in the region, the list of which is attached as **Appendix 6**. The meeting agreed on the following draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/I Decision 1/xx: AFI SAR Generic documentation					
Why:	That to support States of the AFI region in the implementation of an effective Search and Rescue service and ensure seamless cross border SAR operations				
What:	a) The AFI SAR generic documentation in both English and French versions are endorsed. b) The Secretariat to ensure timely dissemination of the generic documentation and support States in their customization.				
Who:	a) AASPG b) ICAO				
When:	a) 7 November 2025 b) 31 October 2027				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: States with customized SAR documents based on generic document shared	Means to collect data	Annual SAR TET report Secretariat report to AAO SG

AFI Search and Rescue Plan

- 2.24. The Meeting was informed of the innovations in the updated version of SAR Technical Experts Team (SAR TET) documents which includes a new SAR performance framework detailing the key performance areas and associated SAR performance objectives, KPIs, and performance target for the 2025-2028 cycle. The new French version and the amended English version of the AFI SAR Plan are attached to this working paper as **Appendices 7a and 7b** respectively. The meeting agreed on the following draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/I Decision 1/xx: AFI SAR Plan Update					
Why:	That to enhance and harmonize SAR implementation in the AFI region				
What:	The amended English version and the new French version of the AFI SAR Plan for the cycle 2025- 2028 are endorsed.				
Who:	AASPG				
When:	7 November 2025				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: N/A	Means to collect data	N/A
	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Remote Towers (Digital ATS) initiative

- 2.25. The Meeting was briefed on the ongoing work on the development of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) for the provision of Digital Air Traffic Services (DATS) and called on States to increase participation in this initiative.

Reduction of horizontal separation in AFI FIRs

- 2.26. The Meeting received an update on the outcome of the Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/14) held in 2024 in Montreal, Canada. The meeting noted the anticipated potential operational, economic and environmental benefits of the reduction of horizontal separation within the AFI FIRs which is deemed as a relevant proposal for further consideration in the AFI region. The Meeting considered the proposed draft AFI 30/10 project document and related Terms of Reference which are included in this working paper as **Appendices 8 and 9**. The Meeting therefore agreed on following draft Conclusion in support of the proposal:

Draft AASPG/1 Conclusion 1/xx: Establishment of the AFI 30/10 Project Management Team					
Why:	That to improve and optimize air traffic management in the AFI continental and Oceanic airspaces and to ensure the timely and effective implementation of reduced longitudinal separation				
What:	a) The AFI 30/10 project management team is established. The Terms of Reference and related project document are endorsed. b) Secretariat and States to coordinate the selection of qualified project team members.				
Who:	a) AASPG b) ICAO & States				
When:	a) 7 November 2025 b) 31 March 2026				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: AFI 30/10 PMT Members selected Metric 2: AFI 30/10 PMT established	Means to collect data	Report of AAO SG/9

Development in the South Atlantic Area

- 2.27. The meeting was informed that SAT SG held its second meeting in December 2024 in Dakar, Senegal, during which decisions were taken following discussions of challenges identified in air traffic services. The Meeting was informed that the SAT SG had established a Task Force to develop mechanisms to address ineffective coordination in the management of space vehicles and higher airspace platforms transiting the SAT FIRs during launching and recovery.
- 2.28. Following the information provided on the need for other ANS areas such as AIS, MET and SAR to be covered by the scope of the SAT mandate, the meeting called on secretariat to coordinate the necessary actions to ensure their inclusion.

Update on ATS Provision in ASECNA Airspace

- 2.29. The meeting received updates focused on the procedural changes, technical advancements and operational enhancements in ASECNA Airspace which included ATC Surveillance Service; Addressing GNSS Radio Frequency Interference (GNSS RFI) impact on ADS-B; Airspace organization; Free Route Airspace implementation and Improving ATS units' coordination. The meeting commended ASECNA for the updates.

ATM contingency plan coordination in Lome UTA

- 2.30. ASECNA provided an update on the initiative taken in the resilience of air traffic management within its airspace which included Level 2 ATM contingency tabletop exercise in Lome UTA in February 2025, plan for larger scale ATM contingency exercises that would be undertaken by end of 2025 as well as in 2026, which, would involve FIRs such as Brazzaville, Dakar, N'Djamena, Niamey and Antananarivo.

ASBU implementation in ASECNA Airspace

- 2.31. ASECNA informed the Meeting that the ASBU elements to be implemented by ASECNA are determined and prioritized on a priority basis covering the areas of air navigation performance, safety and efficiency. These are planned in its service and equipment plan to meet the agency's strategic objectives. The implementation status was provided for the various elements, some being completed while others at 40 % and 90%.

CPDLC Logon Issues in Dakar FIR, Abidjan Sector

- 2.32. The Meeting applauded all the achievements in ASECNA airspace related to CPDLC and called for more regional collaboration between ANSPs especially in the sharing of expertise surveillance data when deployment of key projects such as AIDC is done.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN AERODROME OPERATIONS

Aerodrome certification

- 2.33. The meeting was informed that the average certification rate in the ESAF region is 54.8% while WACAF is 33.8%, making a regional average of 44.8% (which falls short of the 48% target set for June 2025 at the AAO/SG7 meeting).

Aerodrome Certification Project Team Activities

- 2.34. The meeting was informed that the Project team had reviewed the existing AFI aerodrome certification project document which serves as a framework to assist States/airports and proposed a revised version to introduce greater flexibility, region-specific methodologies, and strategic support mechanisms that address lessons learnt from previous assistance activities and current operational challenges in the AFI region.
- 2.35. The PMT further informed the meeting that the team had revised the various checklists on implementation of PANS-Aerodromes provisions which will be considered by the next AAO/SG meeting.

Implementation of key aerodrome operational requirements

- 2.36. The Meeting noted that the rate of implementation of the key specific aerodrome operational requirements remains low, highlighting the need for increased focus and support in these areas. As of 18 July 2025, the current rates of implementation stood at 52.5% for RST implementation, 59.4% for GRF implementation and 23.4% for ACR-PCR implementation in the AFI region. The meeting noted that Benin, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda are the States that have implemented ACR-PCR so far.
- 2.37. The detailed status of implementation of these operational requirements for each AFI State is provided at **Appendix 10** to this working paper.

Airport collaborative decision making (A-CDM)

- 2.38. The Secretariat reported that the implementation rate of the A-CDM information sharing element in the AFI region currently stands at 28%.

A-CDM Project Team Activities

- 2.39. The Meeting was informed that the A-CDM Project Team finalized the draft AFI A-CDM Implementation Guide and held a workshop on 11-12 June 2025. The Meeting also noted that the PMT had developed an A-CDM implementation guide and completed a draft A-CDM Implementation Project Document.
- 2.40. The meeting agreed to review the Project Document during the quarterly AAO/SG meetings. The A-CDM Implementation guide is attached to this WP as **Appendix 11**. The meeting agreed on the following draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/I Decision 1/xx: Endorsement of the AFI A-CDM implementation guide					
Why:	That to support the harmonized implementation of A-CDM in the Region				
What:	a) The AFI A-CDM implementation Guide is endorsed.				
Who:	AASPG				
When:	7 November 2025				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes	Metrics	Metric 1: N/A	Means to collect	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Training and Qualification of AGA Technical staff (Regulators & Airport operators)

- 2.41. The Meeting was informed that the updated draft project document of the Training and Qualification Project Team, which reflects consultations with regional training organizations and outlines an approach to address key challenges reported by States, had been completed. The draft project document will be reviewed during the quarterly AAO/SG meetings before submission to the next AAO/SG Meeting for consideration.

Implementation of ACR-PCR Method in the AFI Region.

- 2.42. The meeting was informed that a team of experts from WACAF region had drafted an implementation guide to assist States with implementation of the provisions of ACR-PCR noting that implementation in the region remains behind schedule.

- 2.43. The meeting reviewed the guide and recommended its use by States. The meeting therefore agreed on the following draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/I Conclusion 1/xx: ACR-PCR implementation in the AFI region					
Why:	That, to foster the ACR/PCR implementation in the AFI region which is applicable since 28 November 2024				
What:	a) States are urged to share their implementation action plans from 30 March 2026 and subsequently every quarter until full implementation. b) States to use the ACR-PCR implementation guide where necessary.				
Who:	AASPG				
When:	a) 30 March 2026 b) 7 November 2025				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: Percentage of States having submitted an action plan Metric 2: No. of States reporting using the Guide	Means to collect	Reports to Secretariat

Implementation of Amendment 18 to Annex 14 Volume I and Amendment 10 to Annex 14 Volume II

- 2.44. The meeting noted that there are complexity and significant infrastructure and organizational implications of the new provisions included in Amendment 18 to Annex 14 Volume 1 especially considering the provisions related to obstacle limitation surfaces, as well as Amendment 10 to Annex 14, Vol II on Obstacle Limitation Surfaces and SMS for Heliports.
- 2.45. The meeting called the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices, in coordination with RSOOs and International Organizations to conduct awareness workshops to enhance timely implementation of the new provisions. The meeting also encouraged States to develop implementation plans to serve as a guide to meet the applicability dates of these provisions.

States and organizations initiatives in AOP

- 2.46. Senegal shared with the meeting its experience on the removal of a Disabled Aircraft that took place on 9 May 2024, involving a Boeing 737-300 operating from Dakar to Bamako, which veered off the runway at Blaise Diagne International Airport (AIBD) after two attempted take-offs.
- 2.47. Nigeria shared its progress on Global Reporting Format (GRF) implementation, beginning with the inauguration of its National Implementation Team on April 29, 2021, incorporating Runway Safety Teams.

Aerodrome Operation Project Teams Effectiveness

- 2.48. The meeting noted that the current list of Project Team members is outdated. The list includes retired State representatives and inactive members while omitting some active members. The meeting therefore called on Secretariat to coordinate with States and update the list.
- 2.49. To enhance the effectiveness of the Aerodrome Certification Project Team and the A-CDM Project Team, the meeting revised the projects descriptions which are included in this working paper as **Appendices 12 and 13** respectively.

REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION PLAN

Update of AFI eANP

- 2.50. Following the reminder to States to provide accurate and consistent information in the relevant sections of the two volumes of the ANP to enable the effective processing of the PfA, the meeting called on States to submit any amendments related to the ANP to their respective ICAO Regional Offices.

Annual Air Navigation Report

- 2.51. The Meeting was informed that given the merging of APIRG and RASG-AFI into AASPG, the Aviation Safety Report and the Annual Air Navigation Report will be combined in a single report to reflect the new context.

AIR NAVIGATION DEFICIENCIES

- 2.52. The Meeting noted improvement in the reporting of Air Navigation deficiencies with a total of 20 notifications in AOP, 6 in ATM and 2 in SAR reported by States and international Organizations. Several States, two international Organizations, ARMA and IATA had contributed to the reporting. The meeting called on States and organizations to continue reporting on deficiencies if any.

ACTIVITIES TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE AASPG IIM AND SMO SUBGROUPS

- 2.53. The Meeting noted the need to avoid duplication of duties and identified the following items that need coordination with the IIM and SMO subgroups: RVSM Safety Monitoring, Runway Safety Initiatives, Wildlife hazard management, Resolution of Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), Air Navigation Deficiencies Database Management, ASBU Implementation, Emerging Air Navigation issues that may pose threat to civil aviation, Aerodrome and Airspace ATS events analysis and Integration of new entrants in Air Traffic Management and elements related to True North.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF THE SUB-GROUP

- 2.54. The Meeting further noted some key challenges and their underlying causes, and proposed mitigation strategies including, *reporting by States on Air Navigation; deficiencies and implementation status of PIRG's Conclusions; the availability of experts to Support Sub-Group activities; the inconsistent participation of State experts in AAO/SG meetings and activities; challenges in coordinating ATM contingency events in the AFI region; the need to issue appointment letters for Experts participating in SAT activities.*

ITEMS THAT REQUIRE ICAO HQ ATTENTION

- 2.55. The Meeting noted a challenge in emergency preparedness at aerodromes and called on ICAO to support the region by providing experts to facilitate facilitation of workshops where possible.

REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) AND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SUB-GROUP

Terms of Reference of the Sub-Group

- 2.56. The Meeting noted that several changes and developments were made in the global strategy for the modernization of air navigation services, such as the evolution of the ASBU framework which need to be incorporated into the Terms of Reference of the Subgroup. The meeting directed that the proposed amendments be considered during the Quarterly subgroup meetings prior to the submission to the next AAO/SG meeting.

Work programme of the Sub-Group

- 2.57. The proposed future work programme of the AAO/SG in **Appendix 14** was discussed. The work programme highlights main activities to be conducted such as coordination with project teams, review of the Project's progress as well as preparation activities of the AAO/SG9 scheduled for mid-2026 and agreed on the following Draft Decision.

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Future work programme of AAO Subgroup					
Why:	That, to enable the AAO Subgroup to effectively support AASPG in discharging its responsibilities,				
What:	The future work programme of the subgroup is endorsed.				
Who:	AASPG				
When:	7 November 2025				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Metrics	Metric 1: N/A	Means to collect	N/A

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in the paper; and
- b) Provide guidance as appropriate.
