The world of aviation is undergoing rapid changes. Worldwide air traffic volume is expected to double in the next fifteen years; new technologies are rolling out; business models of aircraft ownership, registration, and use are changing; and industry activity is becoming increasingly multinational. A global approach to safety oversight can help reduce the risks these rapid changes may introduce.

WHAT IS GASOS

GASOS is a programme that will help provide States access to qualified and capable Safety Oversight Organizations (SOOs) and Accident Investigation Organizations (AIOs) that can effectively assist a State in the implementation of its safety obligations. The results will allow for more efficient and effective use of limited resources and greater harmonization worldwide.
WHY GASOS IS NEEDED

As the world of aviation continues to evolve at a very rapid pace many States struggle to keep up with the developments in aviation.

In January 1999, ICAO launched the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) in response to widespread concerns about the adequacy of aviation safety oversight around the world. These regular and mandatory audits assess whether a member State has effectively and consistently implemented the critical elements of a safety oversight system, which enable the State to ensure the implementation of ICAO’s safety-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and associated procedures and guidance material.

After nearly two-decades of assessments many States continue to struggle in complying with international aviation safety standards because they lack the required resources and technical capacity. To address this, ICAO has promoted regional cooperation mechanisms, including the establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs), which essentially group the efforts of their individual members into a regional entity. RSOOs/RAIOs are seen as an effective mechanism for enhancing safety and strengthening the safety oversight capabilities of their individual members. However, despite the actions taken and the assistance provided to resolve the deficiencies identified through these programmes, many States are still not in compliance with ICAO SARPs. To further assist States and strengthen RSOOs/RAIOs, ICAO is introducing a new programme, GASOS.

HOW GASOS WORKS

GASOS is a voluntary standardized-assessment and recognition mechanism for SOOs and AIOs. States may seek the provision of safety functions or activities by an ICAO GASOS recognized SOO/AIO, however States maintain their obligations and responsibilities under the Chicago Convention.

For the first phase of GASOS, beginning in 2020, an SOO/AIO may apply to ICAO for an assessment and recognition based on two levels:

- **Level 1. Advisory and Coordination**
  This could include advice on developing regulations, manuals, checklists, and other guidance material,

- **Level 2. Operational Assistance**
  In addition to the safety functions and activities conducted at Level 1 this includes performing an actual function or activity but under the authority of the State.

ICAO will conduct a full assessment with a team of qualified experts. Once the assessment is found to be satisfactory then ICAO will issue a GASOS recognition and include the SOO/AIO in the GASOS Directory. This directory will provide States access to ICAO recognized SOOs/AIOs that can assist them in fulfilling their safety obligations.