



COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA (AFI PLAN)

TWENTY-FOURTH AFI PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING *Virtual Meeting, 15 July 2021*

Agenda Item 2 : Overview of AFI Plan Progress (2015-2021)

(Presented by the AFI Plan Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2015 was a key milestone for AFI Plan programme activities. The ICAO Evaluation and Internal Audit Office (EAO) evaluated the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan). Based on the recommendations of the EAO, the AFI Plan Programme Document was reviewed and updated to serve and guide the implementation of various activities during the subsequent years.

The continued implementation of the AFI Plan in an effective and systematic manner in all safety-related areas, and in full alignment with the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), has significantly contributed to the progress made by African States towards achieving the GASP objectives and the revised Abuja Safety and air navigation targets.

This paper presents a brief background, the progress made in the implementation of the AFI Plan and the key achievements obtained in the region since 2015 to improve aviation safety in Africa.

Action: The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper;
- b) Acknowledge the considerable efforts made since 2015 to support the effective implementation of the programme, which in turn improve the aviation safety performances in the region; and
- c) Request States, international and regional organizations, financing institutions, and industry to continue supporting the programme.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) was endorsed by the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly and established by the Secretary General on 1 January 2008 to address civil aviation safety deficiencies in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) region. The programme has since been providing assistance to States with a focus on the establishment and implementation of effective and sustainable safety oversight systems; resolution of identified safety deficiencies; and fostering of aviation safety culture in Africa.

1.2. In 2009, the ICAO Council decided that the Programme activities should be integrated into the ICAO Regional offices' regular work programme as of January 2010. Despite the fact that the activities are integrated into the Regional Offices' activities, the programme

initiated by AFI Plan continues to function as a specific Africa-wide ICAO project since 2010.

1.3. An evaluation of the AFI Plan conducted in 2015 by EAO concluded that the programme is a relevant mechanism for the improvement of aviation safety capability in the region and recommended that the programme be continued beyond 2016 in order to build on the results achieved so far and to ensure its sustainability. Accordingly, the programme document were reviewed and various projects developed and implemented over the years following 2015.

2. Key achievements of the programme 2015-2021

2.1 Over the years, significant progress has been achieved in enhancing aviation safety in Africa as a result of the considerable work and activities undertaken by ICAO through the AFI Plan. The programme continues to register significant gains towards the attainment of the Abuja safety targets, including the improvement of Effective Implementation (EI) of the Critical Elements of States safety oversight system, resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs), establishment and strengthening of regional safety oversight and accident and incident investigation organizations (RSOOs/RAIOs); and building of capacity through various training activities.

2.2 Apart from the traditional State support mechanism, the AFI Plan has adopted a project based approach over the past four years by developing and launching specific projects. Since 2016, eight projects were developed, presented to and approved by the AFI Plan SC and are currently being implemented in the areas of Aerodrome Certification, Search and Rescue (SAR), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) peer review, SSP-SMS implementation, Accident Investigation (AIG), the Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO) and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM), so as to further assist States in achieving a sustainable aviation safety level.

2.3 Since 2015, various programme activities implemented within the framework of the AFI plan programme contributed to enhance the safety oversight capacity of African States. The following are the key achievements of the plan over the last six years:-

- a) The number of African States that have achieved safety oversight effective implementation (EI) rates above the ICAO global target of 60% has increased from 18 in 2015 to 31 in 2021. i.e. On average annually 2 additional African States are passing the threshold of global average EI target of 60%;
- b) The number of SSCs declined from 7 in 6 States to only one SSC in Eritrea. The long standing SSCs of Malawi and Djibouti have been resolved and there was no new additional SSC;
- c) Assistance was provided to certify 14 international airports in 13 AFI States;
- d) In collaboration with EU-EASA African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation meet and adopted a Declaration to strengthen the RSOOs. Accordingly, a Consultant has been engaged through AFI Plan for the development and implementation of a Strategic Plan to support and strengthen RSOOs in the Region;
- e) In line with the Declaration and Framework for a Plan of Action for Development of Aviation Infrastructure in Africa and subsequent Council Decision, the AFI Plan supported the conduct of a Gap Analysis covering Airports, Air Navigation Services, and Airlines in Abuja, Nigeria from 19 to 21 March 2019;

- f) In collaboration with AATO and GAT the African Aviation Training Roadmap has been developed through the AFI Plan programme and various targeted safety related trainings conducted to enhance the safety oversight capacity of States;
- g) Various safety related trainings including Government Safety Inspector (GSI) trainings in OPS and AIR were provided to build capacity in the region;
- h) A Project on capacity building for aviation professionals in the AFI region was initiated to develop sustainable professional personnel to carry out effective regulatory and oversight responsibilities in each area of the ICAO Strategic Objectives
- i) African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review Programme was initiated and supported to have the necessary mechanisms in place to conduct the peer review evaluation among ANSPs. To date 35 States fully support the AFI Air Navigation Targets pertaining to the participation in this continental programme; and
- j) An Annual coordination meeting with Regional Offices, AFCAC, RSOO and RECs is conducted to coordinate work programmes, hence avoid duplication and enhance efficiency.

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