



AFI COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (ACIP)

Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee

Montreal, 17 to 18 November 2010

REPORT

This report has been approved by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

Haile Belai
Secretary
ACIP Steering Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sixth Meeting of the AFI Comprehensive Implementation Programme (ACIP) Steering Committee Meeting was held on 17 and 18 November 2010 at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal, Canada. The meeting was attended by eleven of the fifteen Steering Committee members the two ICAO Regional Directors (ESAF) and WACAF), the newly designated ICAORD (ESAF) and observers from the Council, Air Navigation Commission and the ICAO Secretariat. A list of the members who attended the meeting appears at the appendix to this report.

1.2 The Chairperson of the Steering Committee, Dr. O. Bernard Aliu, Representative of Nigeria on the ICAO Council, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and acknowledging the presence of the Secretary General of ICAO. The Chairperson specifically welcomed all African members of the ICAO Council that were invited to attend this meeting, as decisions related to the future of the ACIP Programme would be made and these Council Representatives would be invited to participate in future meetings of the Steering Committee. The Chairperson also welcomed the Representatives of South Korea and Saudi Arabia that he had also invited to participate in the meeting. The Chairperson invited the Secretary General, Mr. Raymond Benjamin, to address the meeting.

1.3 During his opening remarks, the Secretary General welcomed everybody present and reaffirmed his commitment to the effective implementation of the *Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa* (AFI Plan). With respect to the ACIP Steering Committee, the Secretary General highlighted that the membership of the Steering Committee would be expanded and its Terms of Reference reviewed to reflect the changes that have occurred as a result of integrating the programme into the work programme of the Regional Offices. Accordingly, he indicated that, in the future, the membership will include all African Representatives on the Council, the President of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) and African members of the ANC.

1.4 The Secretary General indicated that a clear and transparent transition plan to integrate the ACIP Programme activities into the Regional Offices' work programme had been developed and would be presented to the Steering Committee for its consideration and any feedback and/or comments it may wish to make. The integration plan, in general, advocates a return to the original governance directives that were included in the AFI Plan as the 36th ICAO Assembly endorsed it in September 2007.

1.5 The Secretary General informed the Steering Committee that a survey of States and Regional Organizations on the implementation of the ACIP Programme was forwarded and that responses were received from 28 sources. The response collected is currently being analyzed and, as soon as it is completed, it will be forwarded to the Steering Committee members and posted on the ACIP website.

1.6 The inputs so far indicate that there is, in general, a positive impression of the contributions made by the Programme, specifically with respect to activities related to the establishment of regional safety oversight organizations and aviation training-related activities. All respondents without exception indicated that they would like to see the training activities and the establishment of regional safety oversight organizations continue until their respective objectives are realized.

1.7 The meeting reviewed the Agenda presented by the Secretary and agreed with changes that were proposed by the Chairperson that took into account the time available and also to enable the external auditors who have just conducted a thorough audit of ACIP to present their preliminary report.

Agenda Item 1: Follow-up on recommendations of the fifth meeting and progress report

1.1 The Steering Committee reviewed action taken by ACIP to implement the recommendations made during its Fifth Meeting (April 2010). The report presented by the Secretary also contained information on the overall progress of the Programme that included actions implemented since reporting to the Assembly (September 2010).

1.2 The Secretary provided information on the outcome of the Second Pan-African Training Coordination Conference (Cairo, Egypt - 22 to 24 June 2010). It was noted that the Cairo Conference was convened to review the survey analyses on aviation training need and available capability recommended by the Special AFI RAN Meeting (Durban, South Africa – November 2008) and recommend further action to harmonize and standardize aviation training throughout the continent. The Steering Committee was appraised on the five major components recommended by the Cairo Conference and also informed on action being taken by the Training Experts Working Group (TEWG). Further, the Steering Committee was advised that the TEWG would hold the first meeting on implementing the new recommendations on 7 and 8 December 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya.

1.3 The Steering Committee noted the successful conclusion of the Second Pan-African Training Coordination Conference and highlighted the importance of the standardization and harmonization of training programmes. The Steering Committee further instructed C/ACIP to take account of the comments made by the members and to request the Training Experts Working Group (TEWG) to further define the deliverables, milestones and accountabilities towards meeting the objective of the Special Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation Meeting (AFI RAN) Recommendation 5/8.

1.4 The Steering Committee identified the need for the TEWG to clarify the processes and determine the criteria for accreditation of training centres by taking into account the newly developed ICAO training policy. The Secretary General informed the group that he would review the use of the ICAO logo by training institutions to ensure quality control at various levels of training criteria.

1.5 In line with the theme “Developing African Capabilities” approved by the Steering Committee and endorsed by the 188th Session of the Council, the Secretary reported that all planned integrated safety management (ISM) training courses, mainly focusing on State Safety Programmes (SSP) and Safety Management Systems (SMS) that were scheduled for 2010 were completed. Accordingly 456 Students from Forty-nine (49) of the 53 African States, including regional organizations and service providers successfully completed the SSP and SMS training programme conducted by ACIP.

1.6 The Secretary reported that the United States Department of Transport (DOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) offered ACIP seven fellowships to train Government Safety Inspectors (GSI) Instructors Course. As the FAA also made the Flight Operations and Airworthiness Inspectors Courses available to ACIP, the Programme was enabled to conduct two GSI training courses (airworthiness and operations) for 30 Inspectors from civil aviation authorities. The Steering Committee noted with satisfaction that activities related to training programmes were effectively implemented in accordance with the work plan.

1.7 The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to the United States Government for the support provided with respect to the GSI training courses and to the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia for the financial contributions they had made to the Programme since its establishment in 2008.

1.8 With regard to soliciting support to implement projects identified through the Programme, the Committee instructed that a specific page should be included in the ACIP website that contains information on specific projects, requiring assistance from donors and other stakeholders. In addition, the Steering Committee instructed that the information on projects requiring specific assistance should be clearly targeted, with the specific support to States adequately defined for potential donors to consider.

1.9 To avoid duplication and facilitate the identification of all assistance projects being undertaken in the continent, the Steering Committee requested that assistance-related information, including assistance currently being provided to African States on bilateral and/or multi-lateral agreements, should be included in the ICAO Database of Assistance Projects (IDAP) and that the database should be linked to the ACIP website. It was proposed that the possibility of including, on the ACIP website, information on Technical Co-operation projects in the AFI Region be considered. It should be noted that the ACIP website will be renamed as the *AFI Plan* website.

1.10 It was noted that ACIP continued to support the establishment of regional safety oversight organizations (RSOOs) and regional accident investigation agencies (RAIAs) throughout the continent, as instructed by the Council, and recommended that those activities continue in earnest to enable States to meet their safety oversight obligations. The Steering Committee considered requests for support from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States and from seven African States that did not belong to a regional organization to enable them to establish a regional safety oversight organization and a regional accident investigation agency.

1.11 The request for support followed the completion of State-specific gap analyses conducted in line with the articles of Assembly Resolution A36-1 and the determination of priority projects by the respective Directors General of Civil Aviation.

1.12 The Steering Committee agreed to recommend to the Council to instruct ACIP to provide the requested assistance, which mainly focuses on support, to develop the necessary frameworks to establish a regional safety oversight organization and a regional accident investigation agency in a similar manner as has been provided to the other regions.

1.13 The Steering Committee further agreed that the Secretary General should send a letter to targeted States, donors and stakeholders requesting contributions for the implementation of safety-related projects and requesting information on on-going bilateral and multi-lateral assistance projects. This would enable ICAO to take account of all safety-related assistance programmes being undertaken in the continent.

Agenda Item2: Continuation and integration of ACIP activities as part of the Regional Offices' work programme

2.1 The Steering Committee reviewed the plan developed for the integration of ACIP activities into the Regional Offices' work programme as of January 2011. In this respect, the Steering Committee highlighted the need for the plan to clearly define the activities, objectives and outputs, including systems for measuring performance. Accordingly, the Steering Committee emphasized the importance of focusing on implementation, e.g. assisting regional safety oversight organizations in their efforts to implement the organizational, financial and legal frameworks that have already been agreed upon.

2.2 With regard to training activities, the Steering Committee instructed that the AFI Plan focus more on the provision of Government Safety Inspectors training covering all certificated activities, as well as the provision of training on the European Co-ordination Centre for Aviation Incident Reporting System (ECCAIRS) training.

2.3 As an item of high importance, the Steering Committee recommended that the continuation of the AFI Plan should, as a priority, undertake actions that would enable African States to be removed from the Audit Results Review Board (ARRB) list by further assisting them to enhance the level of effective implementation of the critical elements of a safety oversight system.

2.4 With this in mind, the Steering Committee instructed that the Regional Offices, in continuing to implement AFI Plan activities, should respect the agreement reached with the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) to reduce the lack of effective implementation per the decisions taken by the ICAO and AFCAC joint meeting on enhancement of aviation safety in N'djamena, Chad, 13 May 2010 as well as the follow up meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, 17-19 August 2010. The Steering Committee also instructed that the ACIP activities continuation plan integrate the activities assigned to ACIP under the AFI Cooperative Inspectors Scheme (AFI-CIS) as an integral part of its actions to resolve deficiencies identified by the ICAO audit.

2.5 As ACIP activities are integrated into the regular work programme of the Regional Offices, the Steering Committee highlighted that the specific character of the AFI Plan as a unique ICAO project to enhance aviation safety in Africa should not be lost and that the activities should continue as a special ICAO Programme for at least the next triennium.

2.6 However, with respect to its governance, the Steering Committee recommended that the management and supervision of the AFI Plan should revert to the original recommendations of the AFI Plan. In line with this, the Steering Committee agreed that the senior ICAO Regional Director in Africa (RD/ESAF) would be responsible for the overall supervision of the implementation of the AFI Plan and report to the Steering Committee on the overall implementation of the AFI Plan. He would also act as Secretary of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee also identified a need for the assignment of an Officer at Headquarters to assist RD/ESAF as a focal point in the organization of Steering Committee meetings and other related activities. It was highlighted that the Officer to be assigned as a focal point at HQ should have a very good understanding of the AFI Plan and the implementation of the Programme.

2.7 The Senior Regional Director will share the responsibility of implementing the AFI Plan with the other Regional Directors and specifically with the Regional Director, WACAF Regional Office, and will ensure that all activities are properly and effectively coordinated between all the players with responsibility to implement the AFI Plan.

2.8 The Steering Committee also reiterated the need to direct the Deputy Regional Directors of the ESAF and WACAF Offices, through the Regional Directors, to play a more active role as leaders of the Regional Office Safety Teams (ROSTs) established in 2009 to assist States to overcome identified deficiencies and, in general, in the implementation of the AFI Plan. The ROSTs consist of all relevant safety officers in the Regional Offices including those recruited under ACIP.

2.9 The Committee agreed that the Secretary General would decide on the need to assign an AFI Plan Coordinator, who shall also be a safety officer as was recommended during the Steering Committee's 5th meeting and advise the Steering Committee of action taken during its forthcoming meeting.

2.10 To align the recommendations of the original AFI Plan and in line with the changes made in the governance of the ACIP activities, the Steering Committee agreed that it will hence fore be known as the *AFI Plan Steering Committee*. However, it should also be noted that the Secretary General, in his opening speech, indicated that he would like to see the membership of the Committee expanded and its Terms of Reference reviewed to reflect the changes. The Secretary General will coordinate consequential amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Committee with the Chairperson of the Steering Committee before the changes are brought to the attention of the members.

Agenda Item 3: AFCAC/ICAO coordination

3.1 The Steering Committee was presented with information related to the close cooperation and agreement reached with the African Civil Aviation Commission on the improvement of Aviation Safety in Africa. This cooperation, designed to give effect to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ICAO and AFCAC on the margins of the 37th Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montreal, 28 September to 8 October 2010) and the related Assembly Resolution, would involve the establishment of an AFI Cooperative Inspectors Scheme (AFI-CIS) and would initially focus on the certification of air operators and aviation maintenance organizations.

3.2 The Steering Committee agreed that another important element of the cooperation was the provision of training to aviation experts covering the broad spectrum of specializations involved in the certification of aviation organizations (e.g. flight operations, aircraft airworthiness, personnel licensing, cabin safety, transport of dangerous goods, etc). In this respect, the Committee appreciated that training of inspectors would be conducted under the continuing ACIP activities and specifically the programme of providing GSI training. The Steering Committee noted that the success of the AFI-CIS, like the other safety-related undertakings, fully depends on the political will and commitment of the African States and their civil aviation organ: AFCAC.

3.3 It was highlighted that the AFI-CIS complements the efforts of States and the regional safety oversight organizations and that it does not absolve the Contracting States of their responsibility to meet their obligations for safety oversight activities under the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Agenda Item 4: Other business

4.1 The Steering Committee was appraised of the findings of the ICAO External Auditors on the audit that they have conducted relating to the ACIP Programme in October 2010.

4.2 In addition to briefly presenting their preliminary report, the Auditors' main recommendations focused on the need to introduce annual budgets, to maintain the momentum created by ACIP while integrating ACIP activities into the Regional Offices regular work programme, the conduct of a new round of gap assessments before the next Assembly in order to analyze the results and impact of the programme and the possible need to continue with ACIP activities beyond 2013.

4.3 The auditors also expressed an opinion on the establishment of a system for sharing responsibilities and accountability between the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices that has already been addressed in Paragraph 2 above.

4.4 The Steering Committee agreed to hold its next meeting during April 2011, at which time it expects to review the effectiveness of the new arrangement of sharing responsibilities, in line with paragraph 3.1 of the original *Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa* that explicitly states that the Senior ICAO Regional Director would assume the overall leadership and supervisory role for the effective implementation of the AFI Plan.

4.5 The Steering Committee noted that Capt. Haile Belai (C/ACIP) will retire at the end of 2010, after 25 years of service with the Organization, and that Mr. Geoff Moshabesha (ICAORD, Nairobi) will retire at the end of 2010 after 15 years of service. The Committee also noted that Mr. Amadou Guitteye (ICAORD, Dakar) would be leaving the Organization at the end of December to take up the position of Director General of the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA). The Steering Committee thanked the gentlemen for their contributions to civil aviation and wished them all the best for the future, adding that the organisation will no doubt continue to work with Mr. Guitteye through ASECNA.

4.6 Specifically, the Steering Committee applauded the efforts made by Capt. Belai in establishing and managing the ACIP Programme over the last three years and presented him with a thank you card signed by all Steering Committee members and observers participating in the meeting.

4.7 In concluding its business, the Steering Committee instructed C/ACIP to develop an oral report to the Council for the consideration of the Steering Committee Chairperson and the Secretary General as soon as possible with the aim of presenting the oral report during the 3rd Meeting of the 191st Session of the Council on Friday, 19 November 2010.

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