

*ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO
MR. RAYMOND BENJAMIN
TO THE
FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN
AFRICA (AFI PLAN)
(Montreal Canada, 24 October 2014)*

1. It is my pleasure , on behalf of the Secretary General, to welcome you all to ICAO Headquarters for the fourteenth AFI Plan Steering Committee meeting and as usual, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the major activities that have been conducted since our previous meeting held in Dakar, Senegal on the 29th and 30th of May 2014
2. Implementation of the 2014 AFI Plan Work Programme aimed at continuing to assist African States improve their Effective Implementation (EI) of International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) or resolve Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), is ongoing.
3. In this regard, the State-specific ICAO Plans of Action, fully incorporating the Abuja Safety Targets, have become a well tried and tested effective framework for delivering assistance to States.
4. As at 1st October 2014, 29 AFI States have been presented with ICAO Plans of Action. All of these States have confirmed their acceptance of and commitment to the proposed Plans, implementation of which has been showing positive and encouraging results.
 - Out of the thirteen States that have had SSCs between July 2012, when the Abuja Safety Targets were adopted, and October 2014, only six States are yet to resolve their SSCs today; and
 - Whereas the number of States that had attained the world average of 60% Effective Implementation (EI) of safety oversight stood at 14 in 2012, this number has gradually increased to 18.

5. Despite these achievements however, it is worth mentioning that there are also certain States that have shown little or no progress over this same period. The detailed progress made in this regard will be presented to you in the course of the meeting.
6. The AFI Plan continues to support establishment and strengthening of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and Regional Accident Investigation Organizations (RAIO).
7. In this vein, the ESAF regional office has been liaising with COMESA to find a way forward in ensuring that the Seven Partner States act on their commitment to form an RSOO/RAIO. Similarly, the MOU for the separation of functions of the respective AAMAC, CEMAC and UEMOA RSOOs concluded at the Safety Symposium held in Dakar in May 2014 still awaits signature on the part of UEMOA. The WACAF office is therefore following up with the latter for completion of their internal processes.
8. The African Flight Procedure Programme (AFPP) has made significant progress since its establishment. To date, nineteen (19) States have adhered to the programme as active participating members and two (2) as users. Several States have also indicated interest in the AFPP.
9. On the basis of the deliberations of our 13th meeting, ANS indicators and metrics have been developed and will be presented to you for review and approval.

10. Cooperation between ICAO and AFCAC on the monitoring of the Abuja Safety targets and implementation of the AFI–CIS project is continuing. Accordingly, ICAO shares information on safety targets with AFCAC and has also approved USD 50,000 from the SAFE fund to support AFI-CIS activities.
11. On the training side, ICAO continues to provide assistance to the Association of African Training Organisation (AATO). The ESAF Office facilitated the recruitment of the AATO Secretary General and also assisted the Association by providing guidance and secretariat services during its Council meeting and 1st General Assembly held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 1 to 3 October 2014.
12. It is also worth indicating that the initiative of establishing a Human Resources Development Fund for Africa has been approved by the Council, and that the project will be set up to start its operations on 1st January 2015.
13. ICAO has continued supporting AFI States to improve their safety oversight systems through implementation of various initiatives with several ongoing Technical Cooperation projects, and also regional Technical Assistance projects funded by Donors and/or the ICAO Voluntary Contributions Safety Fund (SAFE).
14. Improving aviation safety in Africa demands our commitment to work together collectively with all stakeholders in particular with States, Regional and Global multilateral organisations and industry. It is

therefore very encouraging to see expressions of interest and offers of support for the AFI Plan coming constantly from States and partners.

15. In a recent development, ICAO has established Action Plans with a number of Regional Economic Communities , namely: The Economic Community of East African States (ECCAS), the ECONOMIC Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic and Monetary Commission of Central African States (CEMAC) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) to help their member States achieve compliance with ICAO SARPs in the areas of aviation Safety, aviation Security, Air Navigation Services, Economic development of air transport and Environmental protection. These Action Plans include among other things, implementation of the State-specific ICAO Plans of Action, addressing sustainability of RSOOs and the Abuja Safety Targets.
16. I cannot of course conclude my remarks without making reference to changes in the AFI Plan Secretariat occasioned by the appointment and transfer to ICAO HQ of Mr. Belayneh Meshesha, former ICAO RD ESAF.
17. As you all know, Mr. Belayneh has for the past four years served as Secretary to this Steering Committee and so ably coordinated the work of the AFI Plan. He has been replaced in this regard, as of 1st September this year, by Mr. Mam Sait Jallow; ICAO RD – WACAF. Mr. Jallow is no stranger to you as he has been supporting the Secretary in his tasks. I would like to thank Mr. Belayneh on behalf of the whole

Committee for the good work he has done whilst welcoming Mr. Jallow in his new assignment.

18. I look forward to very fruitful deliberations during this fourteenth meeting of the AFI Plan Steering Committee for attainment of the objectives of the AFI Plan.

19. I thank you.
