



**Address by the Secretary General  
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar  
to the 12<sup>th</sup> AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee meeting  
held during the 8<sup>th</sup> African Aviation Week**

*(Nairobi, Kenya, 23 August 2023)*

1. Welcome everyone to this 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan).
2. Since our most recent meeting in Abuja (Nigeria) last year, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the AFI SECFAL Plan Work Programme.
3. Today, you will be reviewing both the activities undertaken since our last meeting and support provided by partners in line with the objectives of the Plan, to improve aviation security and facilitation.
4. You will also review and provide necessary guidance on the first draft of the revised AFI SECFAL Plan Master Document and Steering Committee Terms of Reference for the extended term of the Plan, namely from January 2024 through to 2030.
5. It is important to underscore the significant progress achieved in aviation security oversight capacities in Africa since the inception of the AFI SECFAL Plan in 2015. The effective implementation level of African States as identified through ICAO's Universal Security Auditing Programme (USAP) has increased to reach nearly 66% today, while compliance with Annex 9 security-related SARPs stood at 58% at the end of 2022.
6. Improvements have also been seen in the implementation of State Specific Projects. These are aimed at addressing deficiencies and gaps identified by USAP-Continuous Monitoring Approach audits, States' capacity-building needs, and the prevention or resolution of Significant Security Concerns.

7. Equally, the delivery of Annex 9 Facilitation courses is also an important indicator of progress. Fifty of the 54 AFI States have received training conducted in Arabic, English and French, with over 480 experts benefitting.
8. Furthermore, 71 African personnel received the newly developed ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) training courses, which were delivered here in Nairobi in March 2023.
9. The efforts by States and other involved parties towards these achievements are highly appreciated by ICAO.
10. Despite this terrific progress, areas of concern remain. One such area is related to the implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy and the strengthening of border control measures, in line with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorist threats to international peace and security.
11. AFI States participation in the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) has however steadily grown, from three members in 2015 to eighteen by August 2023.
12. As of 2022, 71% of Africa's States Africa had developed a National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP), and 50% had implemented functional National and Airport Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFCs/AFCs). However, only six of these States have introduced Advance Passenger Information (API), and only three have implemented the Passenger Name Record (PNR) data systems as of August 2023.
13. These issues call for enhanced collaboration among all partners to accelerate the pace of improvement on the continent.
14. Improving aviation security and facilitation in Africa in fact requires the commitment of all stakeholders, particularly States, Regional and Global Organizations and Industry.
15. There is need to strengthen the existing frameworks and levels of engagement, while intensifying joint technical assistance activities.
16. Distinguished steering committee members, before concluding today, I would like to commend the work done by the Secretariat to review and amend the AFI SECFAL Plan *Master Document* and *Terms of Reference* of this Steering Committee (SC), to recognize their efforts made to ensure the

continued relevance of the Plan during the extended period (2024-2030) and initiatives to reinforce its objectives toward enhancing aviation security and facilitation and the attainment of regional targets and the targets set forth in the Global Aviation Security Plan. I look forward to your consideration of these revisions.

17. I would also like to express my appreciation for the AFI SECFAL Steering Committee and its Chairperson, Mr. Kabbs Twijuke, for the leadership and guidance they have provided since this Plan was established.
  
18. Further recognition must go to the close collaboration and partnership achieved among our ICAO Regional Offices, AFCAC, AUC, and other key partners and donors, including several States from other regions, providing funding and experts for the provision of technical security and facilitation assistance to States, as well as the experts of many AFI States who are contributed in-kind to participate in AFI SECFAL Plan missions.
  
19. On this note, I wish you very productive deliberations, and look forward to the outcomes you will achieve.

Thank you.