

**Statement of the Hon. Minister Ports, Shipping and Aviation Sri Lanka
for the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, New Delhi, India
11-12 September 2024**

Effective Implementation of ICAO Global Plans

Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Master Plan (2024-2033) has been developed emphasizing the need for sustainable growth, capacity building, and technological innovation which aims to meet the increasing demand for air travel while ensuring safety, security, and efficiency in its aviation operations.

In line with the international efforts described in the ICAO Asia Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Plan, the **Sri Lanka Air Navigation Plan (SLANP)** has been developed providing the direction and guidance for comprehensive planning and implementation initiatives covering the entire National Air Navigation system in harmony.

With the aim to minimize the safety risks to aircraft, infrastructure, fatalities, and the risk of fatalities, the **National Aviation Safety Plan of Sri Lanka** has been developed in line with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan and the APAC Regional Aviation Safety Plan by recognizing national aviation risks & challenges and showing our commitment to enhance the aviation safety within the Region.

National Aeronautical Search & Rescue Plan of Sri Lanka has been developed and published as a Rule of the State, showing Sri Lanka's commitment for sharing and obtaining SAR resources including trained human resource and necessary SAR assets in order to ensure timely SAR responses within the Colombo SAR Region and its near boundaries to assist the victims of unfortunate eventualities of aircraft incidents and accidents.

Sri Lanka is committed to environmental sustainability in aviation, as demonstrated by the country's **Green Aviation Policy**.

Aviation Safety

The National Aviation Safety Plan (2023-2025) prioritizes local safety risks and relevant safety enhancement initiatives as outlined in the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (Doc 10161). The plan is specifically focused on achieving the Global Aviation Safety Goals, including improving the scores for the Effective Implementation of the critical elements of Safety Oversight System of Sri Lanka and the effective State Safety Program (SSP) as targeted.

Certification of International Aerodromes

All aerodromes used for international operations have been certified through a well-established Regulatory Framework in compliance with Standards and Recommended practices issued by ICAO.

Human Resource Development

Under ICAO, NGAP Programme, Sri Lanka has been delivering many structured activities aimed at creating awareness and instill inspiration on the Aviation among the young Sri Lankans thereby creating a basis for the development of much needed human resource for the industry. NGAP Sri Lanka has been successful in strengthening the basis further by incorporating the Aviation as a subject, stemming from the kindergarten level at the subject curriculum of the National Education system.

Further, in Sri Lanka there are sixteen approved training organizations delivering training courses in various disciplines of the subject of Aviation. Some of the organizations have received reputed accreditations that include 'ICAO Train Air Plus' Status.

Resourcing Civil Aviation

Sri Lanka has been enlisted and resourcing the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness –South Asia (COSCAP-SA) program since its inception and has been benefitted by the technical expertise and the capacity building programmes by COSCAP-SA to enhance the safety oversight capabilities of the State.

Aviation Security

In 2023, the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka successfully completed the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA). The audit, conducted from 8 to 18 May 2023, evaluated Sri Lanka's aviation security oversight system, achieving an impressive 91.36% in Effective Implementation (EI) across the eight Critical Elements (CEs). The ICAO's four-member audit team, appointed by the Secretary General, thoroughly assessed Sri Lanka's compliance with standards outlined in ICAO Annex 17 (Aviation Security) and the security-related provisions of ICAO Annex 9 (Facilitation), highlighting the country's strong aviation security framework.

Air Navigation Services

Sri Lanka has been committed to implement the APAC Seamless ANS through the development & implementation of a **Sri Lanka Air Navigation Plan** ensuring the regional harmonization for seamless ANS operations. Sri Lanka has invested significantly for the improvement of the Air Navigation infrastructure serving Colombo FIR and continue to seek to invest to enhance the service delivery for safe, efficient and orderly flow of air traffic through Colombo FIR.

Sri Lanka has completed:

1. Phase I and Phase II of the AIS to AIM transition and has recorded overall implementation of 80% in AIS to AIM transition.
2. Implemented efficient Air Traffic Control Separation Mininima as per the APAC Seamless ANS Plan and continue to work further reduce as per the plan to improve the operational capacity of the system.
3. Completed the Level 1 and Level 2 Contingency Plans for ATM units serving Sri Lanka and continue to engage with the neighboring administrations for strengthening further arrangements.
4. Established the contract with PCCW Global in December 2023 for provisioning of CRV Package D for establishing AMHS connections with Mumbai and Singapore.

Ratification of International Air Law Treaties

Sri Lanka has acceded to **Amendments to Article 50 and 50(a)** to the Chicago Convention on 28.02.24. Sri Lanka has acceded or in the process of ratifying all the ICAO Air Law Treaties mentioned below:

Montreal Convention 1999- Acceded in 2018

Cape Town Convention 2001- Final draft bill has been approved by the Hon Attorney General.

Beijing Convention 2010- Draft bill has been forwarded to Hon Attorney General.

Montreal Protocol 2014- Final Bill has been drafted by the Legal Draftsman.

Challenges

Sri Lanka faces challenges in the retention of trained, qualified and experienced personnel among the State Aviation Organizations. Government of Sri Lanka is in the process of formulating Strategies to reduce and minimize the talent drain in the system.