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Asia and Pacific Office

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Agenda Item 5: Presentations – State / Industry / ICAO

PROGRESS ON AP-RASP TARGET 4.1 – IDENTIFICATION OF STATES THAT NEED ASSISTANCE AND THEIR HIGHEST-PRIORITY SAFETY ISSUES

(Presented by the Secretariat on behalf of the ORG Working Group)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the analysis under Target 4.1 of the AP-RASP 2026–2028. Twenty-four States are identified as needing assistance: 12 in Group 1 (EI below 50 per cent) and 12 in Group 2 (EI from 50 to 75 per cent). The priority areas common to both groups are accident investigation, the resolution of safety concerns (CE-8) and the organisation function (ORG/CE-3). The challenges faced by Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) in Group 1 are structural, and support is proposed through the ICAO PSIDS Implementation Support Roadmap and its Priority Assistance Map. Two workshops and one GSI course are proposed for Group 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Target 4.1 of the AP-RASP 2026–2028 calls for the region to identify, by 2026, the States that need assistance to address their highest-priority safety issues (Group 1: EI below 50 per cent; Group 2: EI from 50 to 75 per cent). Target 4.2 calls for that assistance to be facilitated by 2028.

1.2 The ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office (ICAO APAC RO), as custodian of Safety Enhancement Initiative (SEI) 4.1.1 (identify the most pressing areas with resource or capability constraints), analyzed USOAP CMA data to identify the States that need assistance and their priority areas. This paper presents the results.

2. DISCUSSION

Scope and method

2.1 The analysis used EI scores from the USOAP CMA online framework (OLF) as at 20 October 2026. It identified 24 of the 41 States in the region as requiring assistance, in Group 1 or Group 2 (Attachment A); the other 17 have an EI of 75 per cent or above:

- Group 1 (12 States with EI below 50 per cent) comprises 11 PSIDS, two of which have not been audited, and one other State; and
- Group 2 (12 States with EI from 50 to 75 per cent) comprises seven States from South-East Asia, three from South Asia and two from other sub-regions.

2.2 Within each group, EI scores were averaged by Critical Element (CE) and audit area, and a heat map was produced. Averages in the lowest quartile were taken as priority areas: below 16.4 per cent for Group 1 and below 56.3 per cent for Group 2.

2.3 Figures 1 and 2 show the results on a common scale, from red (low EI) to green (high EI). Priority areas are in bold with a black border.

Figure 1 – Average EI of Group 1 (States with EI below 50%) by CE and audit area

CE	LEG	ORG	PEL	OPS	AIR	AIG	ANS	AGA
CE-1	53.7	–	–	41.7	–	**12.5**	59.3	22.2
CE-2	19.0	–	36.5	32.8	58.9	**13.8**	31.3	19.2
CE-3	–	**11.6**	28.5	21.5	33.0	**10.2**	45.0	24.6
CE-4	–	20.0	19.2	**7.0**	**10.3**	**0.0**	37.6	**5.9**
CE-5	30.0	66.7	46.8	33.5	31.2	**4.5**	22.2	16.4
CE-6	–	–	47.5	48.7	32.8	–	54.0	18.8
CE-7	–	–	16.4	18.9	30.2	–	43.2	17.5
CE-8	–	–	22.7	**4.4**	32.2	**10.7**	43.8	**10.9**

Figure 2 – Average EI of Group 2 (States with EI from 50% to 75%) by CE and audit area

CE	LEG	ORG	PEL	OPS	AIR	AIG	ANS	AGA
CE-1	85.2	–	–	91.7	–	**36.2**	91.7	62.5
CE-2	**55.0**	–	70.5	**56.2**	86.4	63.3	62.5	80.9
CE-3	–	**53.0**	74.2	78.7	81.5	**41.0**	65.9	61.7
CE-4	–	83.3	60.4	68.9	71.8	**24.3**	61.3	**47.6**
CE-5	72.2	91.7	81.8	79.0	85.2	**55.4**	91.7	70.7
CE-6	–	–	74.1	74.4	90.0	–	71.4	65.9
CE-7	–	–	57.2	56.8	58.5	–	65.1	62.0
CE-8	–	–	**46.4**	**46.2**	67.9	**33.5**	**43.8**	**35.4**

■ 0–20% ■ 20–40% ■ 40–60% ■ 60–80% ■ 80–100%.

Common priority areas

2.4 Nine priority areas are common to both groups (Table 1). Five are also among the lowest-scoring areas regionally in the AP-RASP and are covered by Goal 2 targets. The areas that have not been covered under Goal 2 target include AIG/CE-8, AIG/CE-5, OPS/CE-8 and ORG/CE-3.

Table 1 – Priority areas common to Group 1 and Group 2 (average EI %)

Audit area / CE	Group 1 (EI %)	Group 2 (EI %)	Coverage under AP-RASP
AIG/CE-4	0.0	24.3	Target 2.2
AIG/CE-1	12.5	36.2	Target 2.4
AIG/CE-3	10.2	41.0	Target 2.4
AIG/CE-8	10.7	33.5	Not covered
AIG/CE-5	4.5	55.4	Not covered
AGA/CE-4	5.9	47.6	Target 2.2
AGA/CE-8	10.9	35.4	Target 2.3
OPS/CE-8	4.4	46.2	Not covered
ORG/CE-3	11.6	53.0	Not covered

Group 1

2.5 The analysis then examined Group 1 separately. The nine audited PSIDS have an average EI of 29.2 per cent[1], compared with 69.3 per cent for the APAC region. EI is low across almost all CEs and audit areas. These challenges are structural, and assistance limited to a few priority areas would leave most gaps unaddressed.

2.6 Support to PSIDS should therefore build on the ICAO PSIDS Implementation Support Roadmap (ISR) and its annual Priority Assistance Map (PAM), presented to DGCA/61 (DP/08/02). The ISR addresses structural constraints through legal reform, regulatory harmonisation and a strengthened Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), while the PAM sets annual assistance priorities. The findings of this analysis will be provided as input to the next PAM, and assistance to these States should be aligned with it.

Group 2

2.7 In contrast to Group 1, the States in Group 2 have established the foundational elements of their oversight systems. The remaining gaps are concentrated in specific elements and audit areas rather than being structural and can therefore be addressed through targeted assistance. Beyond the common areas in Table 1, four priority areas are identified from Figure 2: ANS/CE-8, PEL/CE-8, LEG/CE-2 and OPS/CE-2.

Proposed activities

2.8 The analysis shows that the deficiencies are concentrated in CE-8, the resolution of safety concerns, across PEL, OPS, ANS and AGA. There are also gaps in the legal and organisational foundations (LEG/CE-2 and ORG/CE-3), and in OPS/CE-2, where the operating regulations provide the basis for operations oversight. Accident investigation falls under the purview of APAC-AIG, and the AIG priority areas in Table 1 will be provided to APAC-AIG for its consideration of further support.

2.9 Table 2 summarises the proposed activities, which comprise a CE-8 workshop and a LEG–ORG workshop. The GSI OPS course is conducted regularly across the region. States should nominate the inspectors to participate in this course. Additional sponsorship of additional participants is also welcome.

[1] It should be noted that the EI of the PSIDS is derived from USOAP audits conducted between 2006 and 2013, with subsequent activities limited to certain audit areas in a few States. These results may not reflect the current status of their State safety oversight systems and should therefore be considered indicative.

2.10 Support for Group 1 PSIDS is proposed mainly through the ISR and the PAM. The other Group 1 State is outside the scope of those mechanisms, and support will be considered separately with the relevant sections of ICAO APAC RO. The activities will be further developed in collaboration with the COSCAPs, the PLO and the relevant sections of ICAO APAC RO.

Table 2 – Proposed support activities

Proposed activity	Priority Areas	Target participants	Status
Resolution of safety Issues (CE/8) Workshop	OPS/CE-8, ANS/CE-8, PEL/CE-8. AGA/CE-8	Group 2	To be developed
LEG-ORG Workshop	LEG/CE-2 and ORG/CE-3	Group 2	To be developed
Government Safety Inspector (GSI) OPS Course	OPS/CE-2 and OPS/CE-8	Group 2	Conducted regularly; Sponsorship of additional participants welcome
Support through the ISR and PAM	All areas	Group 1	Existing mechanism

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

a) note the challenges of the identified States in Attachment A and the related priority areas, as the identification required under Target 4.1;

b) recognize the activities in Table 2 as the basis for planning under Target 4.2, and

c) encourage the States concerned to participate in the activities once delivered; and

d) invite States and partners to consider supporting the activities in Table 2.

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ATTACHMENT A – STATES IN SCOPE

Table A1 – Group 1 States (EI below 50%)

No.	State	Sub-region	Current EI (%)
1	Samoa	PSIDS	46.31
2	Vanuatu	PSIDS	43.36
3	Marshall Islands (the)	PSIDS	41.44
4	Tonga	PSIDS	36.16
5	Solomon Islands	PSIDS	32.34
6	Nauru	PSIDS	24.10
7	Palau	PSIDS	19.27
8	Micronesia (Federated States of)	PSIDS	16.47
9	Afghanistan	SA	6.86
10	Cook Islands (the)	PSIDS	3.75
11	Kiribati	PSIDS	EI not available
12	Tuvalu	PSIDS	EI not available

Table A2 – Group 2 States (EI 50% to 75%)

No.	State	Sub-region	Current EI (%)
1	Mongolia	NEA	74.90
2	Malaysia	SEA	74.10
3	Bangladesh	SA	72.06
4	Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	SEA	71.35
5	New Zealand	OCEA	70.05
6	Nepal	SA	69.97
7	Philippines (the)	SEA	68.92
8	Myanmar	SEA	68.69
9	Cambodia	SEA	67.79
10	Brunei Darussalam	SEA	64.98
11	Bhutan	SA	55.87
12	Timor-Leste	SEA	50.75

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