

**59th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Cebu, Philippines
14 to 18 October 2024*

**AGENDA ITEM 8: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION**

**ICAO PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
(PSIDS) LIAISON OFFICE
PROGRESS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024/2025**

(Presented by ICAO)

SUMMARY

The ICAO PSIDS Liaison Officer, hosted by the Government of Fiji, was deployed to the Pacific in October 2023. Activities undertaken and planned in the 2024/2025 timeframe include a programme of visits to PSIDS, and planning and coordination of workshops, training and meetings intended to improve engagement between PSIDS and ICAO, and to provide targeted support in identified priority areas.

This Discussion Paper informs the Conference of progress in the work of the PSIDS Liaison Office, the support provided by partner States, and requests the Conference encourage PSIDS to ratify relevant treaty amendments and partner States to continue to provide voluntary contributions and in-kind support for PSIDS-related activities.

ICAO PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (PSIDS) LIAISON OFFICE PROGRESS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024/2025

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Responding to the recommendations of the ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States¹ (PSIDS) Aviation Needs Analysis (the *PSIDS Study*) conducted in 2019, ICAO established the PSIDS Liaison Officer position.

1.2 Following submission by States of their hosting offers, ICAO selected Fiji to host the PSIDS Liaison Officer.

1.3 The PSIDS Liaison Officer was appointed on 01 August 2023, and deployed to Nadi, Fiji, in October 2023.

1.4 The main functions of the PSIDS Liaison Officer include:

- a) enhance communications and coordination between:
 - i. ICAO and PSIDS;
 - ii. ICAO and the Pacific Aviation Safety Office² (PASO)
 - iii. ICAO, other UN organizations with offices in the PSIDS region, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and other relevant international/regional stakeholders;
- b) liaise with the APAC Regional Office to enhance and facilitate technical assistance;
- c) facilitate continuous monitoring over the regional safety and security oversight support system.
- d) establish cooperation mechanisms with the various stakeholders in the Pacific;
- e) provide substantive support to PSIDS on technical matters; and
- f) analyze aviation programme activities and make recommendations on policy development and its implementation.

1.5 The PSIDS Liaison Office was formally opened by the ICAO Secretary General and the Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation for Fiji on 16 August 2024.

1.6 This paper outlines the work of the PSIDS Liaison Office, the support provided by partner States, and requests that the Conference encourage States to continue to provide voluntary contributions and in-kind support for PSIDS-related activities.

1 The States categorized as PSIDS include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue (ICAO non-member), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2 The Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), a regional safety and security oversight organization (RSSOO) established under the Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty (PICASST) to provide aviation safety and security services to 10 PSIDS, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2. DISCUSSION

Priorities in the Pacific

2.1 The PSIDS Study identified priority needs among the PSIDS including *inter alia*:

- direct safety and security oversight support, including the ability to delegate the conduct of some or all of the technical evaluations necessary for certification, licensing, approval, surveillance, quality control and follow-up activities requiring expertise and experience in the concerned technical domains;
- establishment of independent accident investigation functions;
- advice, training and opportunities for sharing of information and experience in safety oversight functions;
- establishment of national aviation planning frameworks;
- SAMOA Pathway¹ priority areas.

2.2 In recent meetings the PSIDS have also identified a list of collective priorities:

- Government Safety Inspector (GSI) training;
- State safety plans;
- Accident and incident investigation;
- Search and Rescue (SAR);
- Artificial intelligence;
- Infrastructure;
- Supply chain logistics; and
- Cyber security.

2.3 While taking into account the priorities stated collectively by PSIDS, ICAO also recognizes that the priorities of individual States may vary from the collective view, according to their unique local circumstances and challenges. Accordingly, the ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office is engaged in an ongoing process of gathering and updating detailed information on each of the PSIDS, to guide the continuous development and update of the ICAO work plan and the associated strategic plan of action as detailed in a separate DP to this conference.

2.4 Information gathered thus far, and the outcomes of discussion at the PSIDS-ICAO Collaboration and Coordination Workshop held in Nadi, Fiji, 15-16 October 2024, indicate the following priorities:

- Governance;
- Aviation legislation;
- Treaty ratification, particularly the updated Pacific Islands Aviation Safety and Security Treaty² (PICASST) and the amendment to Chicago Convention³;
- Aviation regulatory development;

1 The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is an international framework established by the Third Annual SIDS Conference (Apia, Samoa, September 2014) to support sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships.

2 PICASST, the treaty governing the establishment and operation of PASO, was updated in 2022 and deposited with the Pacific Islands Forum depository. The updated treaty has yet to be ratified by all PASO member States.

3 17 APAC States, including all 13 ICAO-member PSIDS, have yet to ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention. Assembly Resolutions A39-5 and A39-7 refer.

- Independent accident investigation;
- USOAP CMA audit readiness;
- Civil Aviation Master Plan (CAMP) and National Air Navigation Plan (NANP) development;
- Aerodrome certification, operations and safety management;
- Aviation security; and
- Aviation medicine.

Work Undertaken and Planned in 2024 and 2025

2.5 The following ICAO-supported, PSIDS-focused activities have been undertaken, or are planned, in 2024

- Common aeronautical Virtual Private Network (CRV) Seminar and Twelfth Meeting of the CRV Operations Working Group (CRV OG/12), Denarau, Fiji, 22 to 26 January 2024;
- Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) Auditor Training Course, Nadi, Fiji, 06 to 17 May 2024;
- ICAO GAT TRAINAIR Plus Government Safety Inspector – Airworthiness (GSI-Air), Nadi, Fiji, 15 July to 02 August 2024;
- PSIDS – ICAO Coordination Workshop, 15 – 16 August 2024;
- PSIDS SAR Capability Improvement Project, 05 August to 18 October 2024;
- Instrument Flight Procedures Safety Oversight Workshop, 28 to 30 October 2024;
- National Aviation Safety Plan Workshop, 18 to 21 November 2024,

2.6 The conference is invited to note that, while the hosting of activities in Nadi, Fiji, moderates the costs of attendance for most PSIDS, their constrained resources, both human and financial, can limit their opportunity to participate.

2.7 Noting the currently identified priorities, the following activities are under consideration for 2025, to be held in the Pacific:

- Aerodrome Safety Management System (SMS) and Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aerodromes Workshop;
- Workshops and/or training in:
 - Governance;
 - Aviation Legislation;
 - Treaty Ratification;
 - Regulatory Development;
 - Accident investigation delegation;
- National Air Navigation Plan (NANP) Workshop; and
- Second PSIDS – ICAO Coordination Meeting.

2.8 A provisional work plan is provided in **Attachment A**.

Partner State Support for PSIDS, and PSIDS Liaison Office Operations

2.9 ICAO extends sincere gratitude to the Government of Fiji for generously hosting the PSIDS Liaison Office.

2.10 The substantial voluntary contributions of funds and in-kind support of the following States for ICAO-coordinated activities is also gratefully acknowledged:

Australia, Singapore, USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia.

2.11 Current and future financial support from partner States is critical to the success of ICAO's PSIDS Liaison Office initiative and the improvement of aviation in the Pacific.

2.12 An emerging area of identified need is the provision of opportunities for on-the-job training for PSIDS personnel following the successful completion of classroom training, particularly to support GSI capability improvement.

2.13 It should also be recognized that as the PSIDS Liaison Office work plan further develops, there will be a growing need for appropriately qualified and experienced personnel resources to undertake activities and projects supporting improvement in identified priority areas. ICAO strongly encourages APAC States having the requisite knowledge and understanding of PSIDS' aviation development and challenges to provide appropriately qualified secondees to undertake these activities and projects in the Pacific. Secondment opportunities will be promoted through direct approach to relevant States, or through ICAO's standard recruitment processes.

Third Regional Aviation Ministers' Meeting (RAMM/3)

2.14 The First Pacific Regional Aviation Ministers' Meeting (RAMM/1) was conducted by PASO and held virtually on 30 June 2021. The meeting, attended by the 18 members of the Pacific Islands Forum, agreed to the Framework for Aviation in the Pacific and the Port Moresby Declaration, covering a range of strategic priorities and actions to respond to the critical challenges regarding aviation safety and security performance. The meeting was also attended by the ICAO Secretary General, and Secretariat assistance was provided by the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office. The RAMM/3 meeting will be held in Nadi, Fiji, 2025. The PSIDS Liaison Office will coordinate ICAO Secretariat assistance for the meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Urge all Pacific Small Island Developing States to ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention (Assembly Resolutions A39-5 and A39-7);
- b) Encourage PASO and its member States to resolve matters related to the ratification of the revised PICASST; and
- c) Encourage partner States to:
 - i. continue to provide financial support for PSIDS-focused activities and PSIDS Liaison Office operations;
 - ii. provide on-the-job training opportunities for PSIDS personnel following completion of ICAO training courses; and
 - iii. provide suitably qualified experts to conduct PSIDS-focused activities coordinated by the ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office.

ATTACHMENT A: ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office Work Plan – Provisional Activity Schedule

Activity	Timeframe	Notes
2025		
Aerodrome Safety Management System and Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aerodromes (PANS-AD) Workshop	March – April 2025	Carried over from 2024 Developing Countries Training Programme (Republic of Korea)
Government Safety Inspector Training (oversight area TBC)	March – July 2025	OJT opportunities following course completion to be coordinated.
Aviation Legislation Workshop	March – June 2025	Delivered in conjunction where appropriate
Regulatory Development Workshop	April – July 2025	
Treaty Ratification Workshop	May – August 2025	
Governance Workshop	May – August 2025	
Second PSIDS – ICAO Collaboration/Coordination Meeting	August 2025	
USOAP and/or USAP CAT Missions	TBD	
2026		
Accident and Incident Investigation Workshop	TBD	May include items carried over from 2025
USOAP CMA Workshop		
National Air Navigation Plan Workshop		
Aerodrome Certification Workshop		
Aviation Medicine Workshop		
Lead Auditor Training		
<p><i>General Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops nominally 1-week duration; - Activity scheduling dependent on relevant global and regional events including, but not limited to, ICAO Assembly, APAC DGCA Conference, APANPIRG, RASG. - Subject to further coordination between ICAO and PSIDS, and partner/donor States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional activities to be included where identified/prioritized; - Number and timing of activities may be limited by PSIDS' capacity to support travel, or to release staff. - All activities will require support from partner States (funding, and SMEs) 		