Comunidade das Autoridades de Aviação Civil Lusófonas
CAACL

**Third Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan) Steering Committee Meeting**

Guinea Equatorial, Malabo, 1st July 2016

Thank you Mr Chairman,
Good morning everyone,

We would like to thank Equatorial Guinea for holding this meeting and for the hospitality and facilities provided.

As a member of the AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee, we would like to address the 3rd meeting with some information on the work developed within the Community of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the PORTUGUESE speaking Countries.

Based on a common language, historical and cultural similarities, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, S. Tome and Príncipe and East Timor, established in 2007, the Community of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the PORTUGUESE speaking Countries. In 2015, Equatorial Guinea joined the Community.

This Community is a forum for reflection, discussion of policies and strategic planning for the civil aviation sector.

Since the creation of the Community, cooperation has been focused in all the five strategic objectives of ICAO and several initiatives have taken place, namely, on technical assistance and capacity building.

The Community has been developing and enhancing the sharing of best practices and capacity building regarding security, by promoting dedicated workshops and awareness courses. The recent challenges to the protection of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference are addressed within the Community, by the exchange of common problems and common solutions. Additionally, facilitation is also a goal within the Community, in order to share initiatives with the purpose to achieve the best balance and connection between security and facilitation.

A dedicate website (www.caacl.org), has been developed, as a tool for sharing information on the main projects developed by the Community. The Portuguese version of Annex 17 is already available in this website.

These initiatives have the objective to provide the tools and the information needed for the routine activities of the civil aviation professionals as well as, to give specific support to the Civil Aviation Authorities, on certain aspects of safety, air navigation and security areas.

According to the established rotation scheme, on an annual basis, each Civil Aviation Authority holds the Presidency of the Community and periodic meetings are held in the country holding the Presidency.

The "No Country Left Behind" initiative highlights ICAO's efforts to assist Member States. In this regard, the continuous cooperation of Member States with ICAO and also with other Member States assumes a significant importance to ensure an adequate level of competences of civil aviation authorities.

Having in mind the NCLB initiative, the Community, as a forum for reflection, discussion of policies and strategic planning, is aiming to identify the needs and the respective priorities of implementation and to leverage the commonality of the Portuguese language, specifically to enhance training and capacity building within the Community.

Member States of this Community continue to work to foster international cooperation and to contribute to the safe, secure and sound development of international civil aviation that would support close relations and friendship among nations and peoples.

Finally, we would also like to refer that Portugal, as a Member of the European Union is contributing to the various projects on safety, security and environment as presented yesterday, at the 17th Steering Committee Meeting of the AFI Plan, by the representative of the European Commission.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Presented by the Representative of Portugal on the Council of ICAO – Helena Faleiro.