AFI COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA (AFI SECFALPLAN)

THIRD AFI SECFAL PLANSTEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 1 July 2016

Agenda Item1:   Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and India Ocean Region

(Presented by RASFG-AFI Chairperson)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper present the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and India Ocean Region

Action: The Steering Committee is invited to:
  a) Note the outcomes of the meeting and consider the recommendations made.
  b) Direct RASFG-AFI to align its yearly work plans with the SECFAL targets adopted by the Windhoek Ministerial Declaration (April 2016).
  c) Member States to increasing the level of response to State letters relating to the "Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI" as well as to the Questionnaire.
  d) AFCAC to request States to designate a focal person within Member States for this and or similar matters.
  e) A 6th Focus Area and its dedicated Group should be established under the RASFG-AFI, to deal with aviation security and facilitation training.
  f) Consider the establishment of a Pilot Project with regard to blended learning and/or e-learning.
  g) Request ICAO to consider the development of Training Packages on Facilitation.

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The Second Meeting of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and the Indian Ocean Region (RASFG-AFI) was held at the AU Conference Centre in Sipopo-Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 23 to 24 June, 2016. The meeting was convened according to the approved Terms of Reference of the RASFG-AFI.

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Mr. Leandro Miko Angue, Director General of Civil Aviation, Equatorial Guinea in presence of Mr. Tefera Mekonnen, Director of Air Transport representing the Secretary General of AFCAC, Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Deputy Regional Director

ICAO WACAF and Mr. Joao Monteiro Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cabo Verde Civil Aviation Authority in his capacity as Chairman of the RASFG-AFI.
Thirty three (33) participants from 14 States, AFCAC and ICAO attended the meeting.

2.   PRESENTATIONS

Three presentations were made under Session one (Part one) as follows:

"Report of the 1st RASFG-AFI meeting" – AFCAC; the meeting was briefed on the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the RASFG-AFI and its adoption by the first meeting, the designation of Experts for the RASFG-AFI together with the five focus areas.

"2nd Steering Committee of SECFAL Meeting Report"-ICAO; participants were informed on the approval of the RASFG-AFI TORs and the work programme for 2016 by the 2nd Steering Committee meeting together with all the recommendations and decisions made in the areas of Aviation Security, Facilitation, Training and Cooperation.

"High Level Ministerial Conference Meeting" – ICAO; meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security and Facilitation held in Windhoek, Namibia from 4 to 7 April 2016. Specifically, the Ministerial Conference adopted a Declaration on aviation security and facilitation in Africa, along with associated targets which was brought to the attention the participants.

A Session of discussion on the above three items were opened, during which participants have shown interest and express concern on the following:

AFCAC made two presentations under Part 2 of the First Session as follows:

"Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI", AFCAC recalled participants on the Objectives of Designation of Experts by States for the purpose of providing support in the identification of security and facilitation issues, to deliver technical inputs and recommendations for the resolution of deficiencies to the Steering Committee of SECFAL Plan and to provide Assistance to States for resolving operational deficiencies and increase effective implementation of States' security oversight system.

The "Questionnaire of RASFG-AFI Work Programme", participants were informed that a questionnaire was developed and sent to States for the purpose of identifying areas of need in aviation security and facilitation. The expected answers from States, would help the RASFG-AFI and AFI-SECFAL Steering Committee to come up with a plan of assistance activities to be conducted.
During the presentation AFCAC raised the concern of low level of response received from States regarding the designation of Experts and the questionnaire.

A Session of discussion on the above two items were opened, and it was suggested to establish a 6th Focus Area under the RASFG-AFI and its dedicated Group, dealing with aviation security and facilitation training.

Two presentations were made under Session Two respectively by AFCAC and ICAO:

ECAC CASE Project on Aviation Security:

The meeting was informed on the CASE Project, with details on its objective, activities (national and regional), and the resources. Participants understood that the CASE project is a good example of cooperation between ECAC and AFCAC. Member States were encouraged to take part in the CASE Project as Partner States. The meeting was also informed on the upcoming workshop to be jointly organized by ECAC and AFCAC in Dakar in September 2016 in the framework of the CASE project.

ICAO made a presentation on its needs analysis study carried out related to AVSEC and FAL training. ICAO underscored the need for closer (sub) regional cooperation in the field of training and the use of e-Learning and blended learning, an approach which was also supported in the Windhoek Declaration.

Following discussions under this Session, States appreciated the benefit and opportunity that can be gained out of the CASE project and were urged to identify their needs and priorities and share it with the Steering Group of the project through AFCAC. A proposal was made to consider use of African experts by the CASE project for the delivery of workshops and assistance missions to Partner States.

3.   RECOMMENDATIONS:

The second RASFG- AFI Meeting made the following Recommendations:

1.   AFCAC to initiate coordination with the 6 African States still using non-machine readable passports to speed up the process of compliance.

2.   AFCAC and ICAO Secretariats to specifically follow-up with the remaining 4 States yet to respond the ICAO State Letter EC6/3-12/70 dated 31December 2012 relating to non-machine readable passports.

3.   RASFG-AFI yearly work plans to be aligned with the SECFAL targets adopted by the Windhoek Ministerial Declaration. (April 2016)

4.   A 6th Focus Area and its dedicated Group should be established under the RASFG-AFI, to deal with aviation security and facilitation training.

5.   AFCAC to intensify more follow up with States for the purpose of increasing the level of response to State letters relating to the "Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI" as well as to the Questionnaire. AFCAC to request States to designate a focal person within Member States for this and or similar matters.

6.   AFCAC to propose to the CASE project Steering Groupto consider use of African experts by the CASE project for the delivery of workshops and Assistance missions.

7.   AFCAC in collaboration with ICAO to review instructions of the forms relating to designation of experts for a better understanding by States.

8.   SECFAL Plan SC to consider the establishment of a Pilot Project with regard to blended learning and/or e-learning.

9.   ICAO to consider the development of Training Packages on Facilitation.

10. The Secretariat to coordinate and communicate to members, dates and venue of the next RASFG -AFI meeting.