ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/26)

7 - 8 November 2023

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets, and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

3.6. Other Air Navigation Initiatives

ACTIVITIES OF THE ANSP PEER REVIEW MECHANISM AT THE AFI LEVEL

(Presented by ASECNA)

SUMMARY	
This document presents the actions carried out in the context of the resumption of the activities of the Review Mechanism by the peer ANSPs of the AFI region after the COVID-19 pandemic. The African Peer ANSP Review Programme was born out of the desire of ANSPs in the AFI region to set up a peer review and benchmarking mechanism, like "IOSA" for airlines through IATA and "APEX" for airport managers through ACI. It is now part of the revised Abuja Safety Objectives for the provision of air navigation services in the AFI region. The framework of the peer review concept and programme objectives as well as its mandate, guiding principles, phases as described in the guidance manual and its appendix form the basis of the programme and are designed to reinforce the quality objective of this coherent and systematic process. Action to be taken: see point 3	
REFERENCE(S)	APIRG/22 Conclusion 22/38: ANSP Peer Review Mechanism Abuja revised safety targets A39 – WP/456
Strategic Objectives	Security

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the initiative of the President of the Council, a meeting of the African Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) was held in Montreal on 4 February 2015 to discuss the need to identify ways and means to address some of the challenges facing air navigation services in the Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) Region.

1.2 The African ANSPs Peer Review Programme was born out of the desire of African ANSPs to set up a peer review and benchmarking mechanism, following the example of IOSA for IATA (airlines) and APEX for ACI (airports).

1.3 In 2016, a steering group was established to develop a regional framework and mechanism to improve the security performance of NSAs in Africa, including Peer Review. It is composed of the following members: ASECNA (Chair), Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), South Africa (Vice-Chair), CANSO (Member and Secretariat), the ANSPs of Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria (Members), ICAO (Member) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) (Observer). It was agreed that ICAO would continue to play an active role in supporting the initiative through the AFI Regional Offices.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 Objectives of the African Peer ANSP Review Mechanism

2.1.1 The main objectives of the initiative are to:

a) establish and maintain a consistent level of security for the AFI region.

b) Assist African ANSPs in meeting their international obligations for the provision of air navigation services, including air traffic services (ATS), flight procedure design, aeronautical information service (AIS), charting, meteorology (MET), communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS), search and rescue (SAR) and safety management system (SMS).

c) Pooling available tools, human resources, and training and integrating safety and quality reviews into an ANSP-specific safety and quality assurance program to reduce certification costs.

2.1.2 This initiative is part of the revised Abuja Safety Objectives for the provision of air navigation services in the AFI region.

2.2 Progress

2.2.1 ICAO, through its regional offices, supports African ANSPs in the effective implementation of this programme. This support has already taken the form of:

- the development of a draft African ANSP Peer Review Programme Manual to establish a review framework encompassing SMS and all areas of the NSA (ATS, CNS, MET, SAR, PANS-OPS, AIM and NAVAID benchmarking)
- the provision of experts for the training in the review framework hosted by ASECNA in Grand Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)

The draft handbook was adopted at the ANSP meeting held from 3 to 5 May 2017 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Cross-reviews were conducted by ASECNA and ANSP Ghana in 2019 to evaluate the draft manual.

A similar initiative was set up by CANSO Africa called CANSO Standards of Excellence (CANSO SoE) and saw the participation of some African air navigation service providers, including Ghana, Eswatini and South Africa.

2.2.2 The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of these activities. At their meeting held in Lomé, Togo, from 28 March to 1 April 2022, African ANSPs agreed to relaunch peer review activities in 2023 by merging all similar initiatives at the continental level, in particular CANSO SoE. To this end, a Task Force led by ASECNA, also composed

of experts from ANSPs from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Eswatini, has been set up, with the objective of:

- Merge the draft ICAO program manual with the CANSO SoE manual.
- Produce a single review questionnaire taking into account the new versions of the ICAO protocol questions and the SMS assessment elements contained in the CANSO SoE manual.
- Translate the revised documentation from English to French in order to have all the documentation in these two working languages.
- Organize the training of experts to familiarize themselves with the new common framework for reviews by African peer ANSPs.
- Conduct pilot review activities in the second half of 2023 to test the new framework.

2.2.3 Far from being "just another audit", this initiative voluntarily set up by the African ANSPs aims to promote between the participating ANSPs the sharing of operational experiences and the management of the safety and quality of services provided to users. During the various continental meetings that brought them together (Lomé Meeting mentioned above, CANSO Africa Annual Conferences 2022 in Dakar, Senegal and 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia) the ANSPs expressed concerns about, among others:

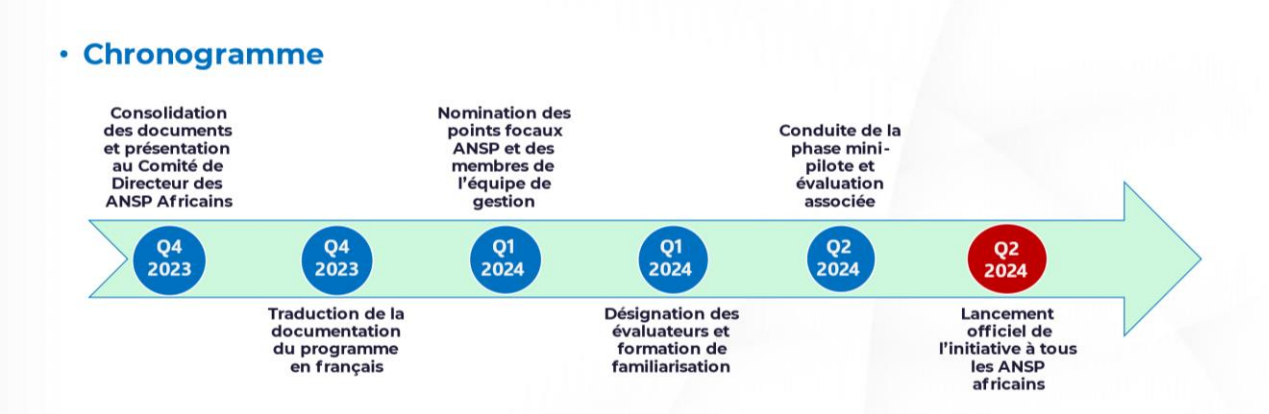
- the form of a safety oversight activity that the initiative takes, and
- the confidentiality of information collected during peer reviews.

These concerns may ultimately dampen ANSPs' enthusiasm for the program and their momentum to participate. ANSPs want the process of designing, validating and implementing corrective action plans to be voluntary. It thus emerges from this that it is necessary to revise the Abuja safety Objective N°16 in its point C) relating to the development of corrective action plans.

2.2.4 The finalized draft documents were submitted to ICAO for comments prior to the start of the pilot reviews and dissemination to African air navigation service providers. The final draft, including the results of the pilot review, will be presented to the Initiative Steering Committee.

2.3 Prospects

2.3.1 The following figure shows the draft timeline of planned activities until the official launch scheduled for the second quarter of 2024



2.3.2 The challenge will be the effective popularization of the program at the level of all African ANSPs for a better sharing of experience within the industry. In the long term, experience would be shared with other regions of the world to capitalize on this African experience in accordance with the provisions of Conclusion 22/38 of APIRG 22.

3 FOLLOW-UP TO THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) take note of the information provided in this document,
b) commend ICAO for its continued support to the ANSP African Peer Review Programme,
c) encourage States to support the draft AFI plan on the implementation of the African NASP Peer Review Programme and to set up a team to recruit ANSP experts to carry out the reviews,
d) call on African navigation service providers to work together to strengthen this African programme for ANSP Peer support to improve the safety and efficiency of air transport operations in Africa
e) call on RASC-AFI to propose a revision of the Abuja Safety Objective N°16 in its point C) to make the development of corrective action plans a voluntary process for ANSPs to sustain this initiative.