TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG/26)

&

NINETH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP (RASG-AFI/9)

COTONOU CONVENTION CENTER, BENIN

6 – 10 NOVEMBER 2023

INFORMATION BULLETIN

1. Venue of the Meetings:

The Twenty-Sixth meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/26) and the Nineth meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASGAFI/9) will be held at the **Cotonou convention center, in Benin, from 6 to 10 November 2023.**

The contacts of the Benin CAA and ICAO Regional Offices are:

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Organisation de l'Aviation Civile Internationale, ***Bureau Afrique Occidentale et Centrale (WACAF)*** *Tel : (221) 33 869 24 24* *E-mail: icaowacaf@icao.int*

2. Working Languages

The Meetings will be conducted in the English and French Languages with simultaneous interpretation.

3. Opening Session

The official opening of the meetings will take place on **Monday 6 November 2023 at 09:00 hours.**

4. Registration

The pre-registration of participants is strongly encouraged, and participants are urged to preregister online for the respective meetings at:

- **APIRG/26:** https://icao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqduqprzwoGtQz04kiyKueDwW8CXn6hNPx
- **RASG-AFI/9:** https://icao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcscuqvqzstE9LYqe9J3CkSS9owq5zNuTNk

The onsite registration will take place at the site of the meeting on **Monday 6 November 2023 from 07:30 to 08:30 hours.**

5. Transport

5.1. Ground Transportation

5.1.1. Transport pick up and drop off from Cotonou International Airport International Airport to respective hotels shall be arranged between delegates and respective hotels which will have received prior booking. A welcome desk will be available at the Airport to provide the necessary assistance.

5.1.2. Transportation is arranged via the hotels to and from the airport. A taxi from Cotonou International Airport International to Cotonou City Centre (approximately 5 kms away), is about US$ 7.5. The venue of the meeting is Cotonou convention center.

5.1.3. Transport pick up and drop off from the hotels to venue shall be provided between 07:30 and 08.30 am, and 17.00 hours from the venue to the hotels.

5.2. Within the country

5.2.1. Travel within the country is largely by road. You can take a bus, or yellow car taxis. You can also order your taxi by phone using the GOZEM application, which can be downloaded from the Play Store.

5.2.2. Taxi cabs are available and can be reached from your hotel. Motorcycle “taxis” or or zemidjan are a common feature in Benin and often beat the traffic snarl-ups but may not be safe.

6. Hotel Information

6.1. Participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations and indicate that they are attending an ICAO meeting to take advantage of the special accommodation rates/ Benin CAA negotiated rates. A list of recommended hotels/lodges is attached at the end of this bulletin. Participants are advised to confirm their hotel reservations early (send Reservation bookings and itinerary to Benin CAA) to avoid last-minute inconveniences.

7. Weather and Clothing

7.1. Rains normally come between the months of April to mid-July and mid-September to October where April to mid-July have heavy and persistent rains. Cotonou temperatures range between 24°C and

30°C. During most months warm clothing is not necessary. Benin's geographic coordinates are 9.3077° N, 2.3158° E. The country is within the West African time zone - i.e., 1 hour ahead of GMT.

8. Visa

8.1. Nationals of all African countries with a valid passport are exempt from visa. ECOWAS and UEMOA nationals can freely enter Benin, provided with a valid passport or national identity card. For all other countries whose nationals are not visa-exempt, they can obtain their visa online via the www.evisa.bj website.

9. Health

9.1. To enter in Benin, a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is not required to travelers (Residents/Non-Residents) coming from Yellow Fever non-endemic countries and without an active transmission outbreak of Yellow Fever.

9.2. COVID-19 information

COVID-19 information: All eligible travelers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines. Please see Your COVID-19 Vaccination for more information. Benin.

10. Banks and Currency

10.1. The country's legal tender is the Franc CFA (XOF). Notes are in denominations of 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10 000. Coins most popularly used are in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 250.

10.2. Benin enjoys commercial and merchant banking services. Most Banks handle travelers' cheques and convert international currencies. Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. with a number of Banks open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Forex Bureaus are also available in Cotonou. Visitors are advised to deal with licensed Bureaus as shown on: https://www.goafricaonline.com/bj/annuaire/bureaux-de-change

10.3. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations. Currently, 1USD is approximately equivalent to 606,95 Francs CFA

11. Telephone

11.1. Worldwide direct connections are available, using the international code or telephone operator if necessary. From abroad dial +229 followed by required number. Telephone and communication services are spread around the country with Internet access available. Two mobile phone companies: MTN and MOOV offer a wide range of services.

11.2. The internet country code top level domain is .bj

12. Electrical Supply

The power supply in Benin is 220 volts. It is advisable to bring your own round of, two prong adapter, and transformer for 100 volts AC.

13. Security

While Benin has a good safety record, in case of any emergency, Police can be reached on 112.

14. Tourist Information

14.1. Known as a birthplace of the vodun (or "voodoo") religion and home to the former Dahomey Kingdom from circa 1600–1900, Benin's stunning scenery and warm, friendly people offer unique

experiences in one of the most remarkable countries in the world. It is blessed with extraordinary biodiversity, with incredible wildlife living throughout its parks, historical sites of slavery, etc.

14.2. Travelers can acquire exceptional and memorable memories through various tourist visits without limitation, the place of the Amazon, the garden of Mathieu, the temple of the pythons, the village Ganvié, the market Dantokpa etc.

15. Emergency Contacts:

15.1. Police: **117**

15.2. Fire: **118**

15.3. Ambulance: **112**

16. Health services

For any advanced treatment, delegates are advised to seek treatment at one of the following hospitals:

→ SAMU: +229 90 90 30 02
→ Primary Doctor, Dr Angelot ASSOGBA: +229 97 45 05 50

HOTEL INFORMATION IN COTONOU

N°	Hotel (Distance from the meeting venue)	Level (Star)	Negotiated Room rate	Contacts
1.	Hotel LA CASA CIELO (Distance 5.2 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 80**	T: +22921602686 +22967867272 E: reservations@sasacielohotel.com W: www.casacielohotel@.com
2.	SUN BEACH HOTEL (Distance 6.1 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 103**	T: +22921302690, +22995606161 E: sunbeach_hotel@yahoo.fr contact@sunbeach-hotel-benin.com W: www.sunbeach
3.	GOLDEN TULIP LE DIPLOMATE (Distance 400 m)	4	Single Room-**US$ 190** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 280**	T: +229 21300200 E: info@goldentulipdiplomatecotonou.com W: www.goldentulipdiplomatecotonou.com
4.	NOVOTEL HOTEL (Distance 650 m)	5	Single Room-**US$ 215** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 235**	T: + 229 58067011 E: h1826-res@accor.com W: www.accorhotels.com
5.	HOTEL IBIS (Distance 650 m)	4	Single Room-**US$ 116** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 130**	
6.	AZALAI HOTEL DE LA PLAGE (Distance 3.4 km)	4	Single Room-**US$ 163**	T: +22921317200, +229 21 31 72 69 E: reservationahp@azalaihotels.com W: www.azalai.com
7.	NOBILA AIRPORT HOTEL (Distance 2.5 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 103**	T: +22921304252 +22997964000 E: reception@nobilaairporthotel.com W: www.nobilaairporthotel.com
8.	BENIN ROYAL HOTEL (Distance 3.5 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 111** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 140**	T : +229 65898989 E : resa@beninroyalhotel.com W : www.beninroyalhotel.com
9.	HOTEL NOAHGARDEN (Distance 4.5 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 70** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 90**	T: +229 91409441 E: resahotelnoahgarden@gmail.com W: www.hotelnoahgarden.com
10.	HOTEL LIVINGSTONE (Distance 2 km)	3	Single Room-**US$ 143** Double Occupancy Room-**US$ 166**	T : + 229 64001100 E : info@livingstone-benin.com W : www.livingstonehotelbenin.com