



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Second Meeting of the AASPG Programme Review and Coordination Committee (PRCC/2)

Nairobi, Kenya, 24 – 25 September 2026

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

2.3 Outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2)

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This Paper presents a summary of the outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2) of the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and implementation Group (AASPG), which was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 29 June to 3 July 2026. The meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the conclusions and decisions of the previous meetings, assessed the achievements in Safety Management and Oversight, examined Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) at the regional level, identified activities to be coordinated with the IIM and AAO Sub-Groups, discussed the implementation challenges of the Sub-Group and reviewed the Terms of Reference and future work programme. Action by the meeting is at Paragraph 3 of this Paper.
REFERENCES
▪ Report on the Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2). ▪ AASPG Procedural Handbook.
This document relates to the ICAO Strategic Goal: Every Flight is Safe and Secure

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2) of the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and implementation Group (AASPG) was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 29 June to 3 July 2026.

- 1.2 The meeting was attended by 59 participants from 14 States of the AFI region, 4 regional organizations, 1 airport operator, 2 aircraft operators, and the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices.
- 1.3 The meeting discussed nine (09) agenda items as presented in Appendix 1 to this Working Paper.
- 1.4 The meeting adopted three Conclusions and four Decisions. This paper presents the outcomes of the meeting for consideration.

2. DISCUSSIONS

2.1 Second Meeting of the SMO/SG

- 2.1.1 The meeting was chaired by Mr. Lawrence Amukono, the chairperson of the SMO/SG. Mr. Zewdu Aregawi, Regional Officer, Safety Implementation, ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office (ESAF), served as the Secretary to the meeting, assisted by Regional Officers from the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices.
- 2.1.2 The meeting was conducted in the English and French languages with simultaneous interpretation services. The documentation was made available in both languages on the websites of ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices.

Status of implementation of the conclusions and decisions of the previous meetings of the SMO/SG, as well as those of the AASPG/1 meeting applicable to the Sub-Group

- 2.2.1 The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the conclusions and decisions from previous SMO/SG meetings and the outcomes of the AASPG/1 meeting applicable to the Sub-Group as presented in Appendix 2 of this Working Paper. The meeting noted the implementation status and was invited to provide further guidance and recommendations to enhance the effective implementation of outstanding activities aimed at strengthening aviation safety oversight and safety management in the AFI region.

Achievements in Safety Management and Oversight

- 2.2.2 The Project Team Leads provided updates on the implementation of the following endorsed project areas, highlighting key achievements

2.3.1 Review of Progress registered by the ‘Strengthening States’ Safety Oversight Systems’ Project Team

- 2.2.3 The Project Team presented the progress made, including the development of the Project Document (PRODOC) outlining eligibility criteria, indicative beneficiary States, the project's objectives, implementation arrangements, governance framework, risk management measures, sustainability provisions, and indicative budget aimed at supporting States with low Effective Implementation (EI) scores, Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), and States that have not yet been audited.

- 2.2.4 The meeting noted the progress achieved and recommended to further strengthen the draft Project Document. It emphasized the importance of close coordination among the various Project Teams and the need to consider ongoing regional initiatives to ensure complementarity of efforts, maximize synergies, and avoid duplication of activities. During the breakout session, the Project Team reviewed and revised the draft Project Document in line with the meeting's recommendations. Following the review, the meeting endorsed the revised draft Project Document (presented in Appendix 3 to this WP).

Review of Progress made by ‘Development and implementation of Regional and National Aviation Safety Plans (AFI-RASP and NASPs)’ Project Team

- 2.2.5 The Project Team presented the progress achieved thus far, highlighting the work undertaken by the three dedicated Working Groups established by the Team: Organizational Challenges (ORG), Operational Safety Issues (OPS), and Safety Performance Monitoring (SPM).
- 2.2.6 An update was also provided on the project milestones, indicating that the development process remained on track, with consolidation of the draft Regional Aviation Safety Plan to be presented for validation at a workshop in October 2026; and subsequently for approval by AASPG/2 in November 2026.
- 2.2.7 The Meeting noted the progress made and encouraged the Project Team to continue its work in accordance with the established timelines. The Meeting further requested the Project Team to review the best practices adopted by other ICAO regions to ensure the timely update of the AFI-RASP in accordance with the future editions of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP). The following decision was therefore formulated:

SMO/SG2 Decision 2/01: Development and Implementation of the AFI-RASP and NASPs					
Why:	That, to ensure the continuous alignment of the AFI-RASP to the current edition of the GASP				
What:	The Project Team: a) Expedite the revision and amendment of the AFI-RASP to ensure its timely alignment with the latest edition of the GASP. and b) Develops an AFI-RASP implementation monitoring and reporting tool				
Who:	AFI-RASP/NASP Project Team; ICAO Regional Offices				
When:	a) Continuous; and b) 31 December 2026				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	AFI-RASP implementation monitoring and reporting tool established.	Means to collect data	PTC report to SMO/SG and PRCC; Secretariat Report to AASPG.

Review of Progress registered by ‘Establishment of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS)’ Project Team

- 2.2.8 The Project Team presented the progress achieved, highlighted the challenges encountered, and provided recommendations to address them.
- 2.2.9 The presentation focused on key actions undertaken, including the review of the project description and its Terms of Reference (ToR), establishment of a structured approach for task breakdown, development of a project tracking mechanism, preparation of an SDCPS survey tool for circulation to States, and the draft Project Document (PRODOC) aimed at supporting States in the development and implementation of SDCPS.
- 2.2.10 The Meeting noted the progress made and emphasized the importance of close coordination with the other project teams to ensure a harmonized approach for the implementation of the project and assistance to States. To support the establishment of SDCPS, the Meeting encouraged States to designate a focal point and actively participate in the SDCPS survey and requested the Project Team to identify States and academic institutions that could support the project’s implementation. During the breakout session, the Project Team reviewed and revised the draft Project Document in line with the meeting's recommendations. Following the review, the meeting endorsed the revised draft Project Document (presented in Appendix 4 to this WP). The meeting formulated the following conclusion:

SMO/SG2 Conclusion 2/01: Establishment of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS)					
Why:	That, in order to support the establishment of SDCPS				
What:	a) States designate a focal point and actively participate in the SDCPS survey and provide complete and timely responses; b) The project team identifies States and academia that will support the implementation of the project.				
Who:	a). States b). SDCPS Project Team				
When:	a.30 Sep. 2026 b. End of 2026				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	Focal point appointed SDCPS survey completed Identification of States and academia	Means to collect data	PTC report to SMO/SG and PRCC; Secretariat Report to AASPG.

Review of Progress made by the ‘Safety Management - State Safety Programme Implementation and documentation’ Project Team

- 2.2.11 The Project Team presented the progress made in the implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation and documentation project, launched in January 2026.

Among the 64 generic SSP documents and tools identified, seven have been completed, 21 documents are in progress, eight have not yet been initiated.

- 2.2.12 The Meeting noted that the Progress has been affected by the limited availability of designated experts and insufficient sharing of existing SSP documentation, resulting in delays and duplication of effort. The Meeting noted the current pace of development of the SSP documentation, encouraged the Project Team to expedite the activities, where feasible, to support the timely completion of the project documents by 2027. The meeting formulated the following Conclusion:

Draft SMO/SG2 Conclusion 2/02: State Self-Assessment of State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation through the OLF					
Why:	That, to meet the GASP Target 3.1 related to the implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP),				
What:	a) States conduct self-assessment of their State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation using the relevant ICAO Online Framework (OLF) by 31 December 2026; b) States develop and implement action plans to address identified gaps and report progress to the SMO/SG on an annual basis; and c) ICAO Regional Offices, AFCAC and RSOOs, provide technical assistance to States requiring support in completing the self-assessment and developing corrective action plans.				
Who:	States; ICAO Regional Offices, AFCAC and RSOOs				
When:	a) by 31 December 2026; b) By end 2026 and reporting Annually c) In accordance with ICAO Regional Offices working plan				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	% of States Conducted SSP -SA on the USOAP-CMA OLF Nbr. of States assisted	Means to collect data	USOAP-CMA OLF Regional Office SSP assistances data AFCAC and RSOOs SSP assistances data

Review of Progress made by the ‘Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG)’ Project Team

- 2.2.13 The Project Team presented the progress achieved and highlighted the completion of the initial phase of the project, which enabled the development of the organizational and governance framework for the Regional Pool of Investigators (RPI), the selection criteria for investigators and the associated training programme. The Project Team also informed the meeting of the preparation for the validation workshop scheduled for October 2026, as the next step towards the formal endorsement by States, the selection of investigators and the operationalization of the Regional Pool of Investigators.

- 2.2.14 The Meeting noted the progress achieved and emphasized the importance of sharing the relevant documentation with States well in advance of the workshop on the establishment of regional pool of investigators to allow sufficient time for their review and the provision of comments, as necessary.

Review of Progress made by the ‘Monitoring of SMO/SG-related conclusions and Decisions’ Project Team

- 2.2.15 The Project Team reported progress in developing the project strategy and work plan, reviewing survey results on the implementation of ICAO regional body conclusions and decisions, establishing a database, and analyzing conclusions and decisions from RASG-AFI and SMO/SG to assess their relevance and effectiveness.
- 2.2.16 The Team also outlined the remaining tasks, including the development of a monitoring framework and tracking dashboard, preparation of a progress update for the PRCC, and validation of project deliverables prior to submission to AASPG.
- 2.2.17 The Meeting noted the progress achieved and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination among AASPG Sub-Groups in reviewing cross-cutting issues. It further encouraged the long-term development of a web-based monitoring tool to improve collaboration and reporting on the implementation status of conclusions and decisions. Status of implementation of the conclusions and decisions of the previous meetings of the SMO/SG, as well as those of the AASPG/1 meeting applicable to the Sub-Group is presented in Appendix 4 to this working paper.

Draft SMO/SG2 Decision 2/02: Improved Monitoring of SMO/SG-related Conclusions and Decisions					
Why:	That, to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of conclusions and decisions				
What:	The Secretariat facilitates coordination between the Sub-Groups of AASPG (AAO, IIM and SMO Sub-Groups) for the review of cross-cutting conclusions and decisions and other relevant matters.				
Who:	AAO/SG; IIM/SG; SMO/SG				
When:	April 2027				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes	Metrics	% of implementation of cross-cutting conclusions and decisions jointly reviewed.	Means to collect data	Report AASPG
	No ☐				

- 2.2.18 The meeting appreciated the progress made in each project area emphasizing the importance of close coordination among each project team and formulated the following draft conclusion:

SMO/SG2 Conclusion 2/03: Progress Registered by SMO/SG Project Teams					
Why:	That, to ensure the completion of the SMO/SG project documents and their implementation,				
What:	ICAO Regional Offices, in collaboration with AFCAC, RSOOs, RAIOs, and other partners, continue to pursue resource mobilization efforts to support project implementation.				
Who:	ICAO Regional Offices, AFCAC, RSOOs, RAIOs				
When:	Dec. 2028				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	Amount fund (financial and human) received	Means to collect data	Report to AASPG

Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs)

- 2.2.19 The Secretariat presented the existing Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) related to Air Navigation Services (ANS) in the AFI region, providing an overview of the status of unresolved SSCs, progress achieved, key challenges, and ongoing assistance initiatives.
- 2.2.20 It was highlighted that unresolved SSCs in the region are primarily associated with non-calibration of Navigational Aids and lack of flight validation of instrument flight procedures. Progress in the implementation of corrective action plans and efforts to strengthen ANS oversight capabilities were also reported.
- 2.2.21 The resolution of the identified SSCs in Zimbabwe including the support being provided by ICAO Regional Offices and regional partners. was well noted by the meeting. Attention was drawn to persistent challenges, including limited technical capacity, resource constraints, and weaknesses in regulatory and oversight frameworks.
- 2.2.22 The Meeting emphasized the need for sustained implementation of corrective action plans, continued regional cooperation, and targeted technical assistance to strengthen ANS safety oversight capabilities and support the timely resolution and prevention of SSCs across the AFI region. The meeting formulated the following draft Decision:

SMO/SG2 Decision 2/03: Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs)					
Why:	That, to resolve the existing SSCs and prevent the emergence of new ones,				
What:	AASPG Contributory Bodies jointly develop SSC prevention and resolution programmes/plans to strengthen State safety oversight system, particularly with regards to surveillance activities and resolution of safety issues.				
Who:	AAO/SG; IIM/SG; SMO/SG				
When:	Dec. 2026				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒	Metrics	SSC prevention and resolution	Means to	Report to AASPG

	No ☐		programmes/plans developed	collect data	
--	-----------------------------	--	----------------------------	--------------	--

Activities to be coordinated with the IIM and AAO Sub-Groups

- 2.2.23 The Meeting noted several areas requiring enhanced coordination among the AASPG Sub-Groups, including the prevention and resolution of Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs), implementation of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS), revision and alignment of the AFI Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AFI-RASP), and monitoring of cross-cutting AASPG conclusions and decisions.
- 2.2.24 The meeting emphasized the need for collaboration among the AAO/SG, IIM/SG, and SMO/SG in addressing SSCs, supporting SDCPS implementation, and contributing to the development and maintenance of the AFI-RASP. The Meeting further agreed that the Secretariat should facilitate coordination among the Sub-Groups through formal mechanisms, such as regular consultations, information-sharing arrangements, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities, to ensure effective implementation of joint actions and monitoring of cross-cutting issues.

Implementation Challenges of the Sub-Group

- 2.2.25 The Meeting noted that variations in States' safety oversight maturity levels, limited sharing of safety oversight and SSP documentation, insufficient information on the implementation of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS), and the potential duplication of efforts with other regional initiatives continue to affect the timely delivery of project outputs.
- 2.2.26 The Meeting further noted that coordination challenges among Project Teams, together with the limited availability of some subject matter experts and internet connectivity constraints, have affected the conduct of virtual meetings and the implementation of planned activities.
- 2.2.27 The Meeting emphasized the importance of conducting State needs assessments, strengthening coordination among regional stakeholders, promoting the sharing of safety oversight and SSP/SMS documentation and tools, and ensuring the active participation of nominated experts. The Meeting encouraged Project Teams and States to enhance communication and coordination mechanisms to support the effective implementation of SMO/SG projects and deliverables.

Proposed Recommendations/Actions to be taken by ICAO HQ

- 2.2.28 The Secretariat presented a working paper outlining the proposed recommendations and actions emanating from the meeting for consideration by the Air Navigation Commission and the ICAO Council related to Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS), State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation, and the promotion of a positive

safety culture, with a view to improving the effectiveness of safety initiatives and enhancing aviation safety performance throughout the AFI region.

- 2.2.29 The Meeting recognized the need for enhanced implementation support, practical guidance and capacity-building initiatives to assist States in the effective implementation of SDCPS, SSP, and positive safety culture principles. The Meeting therefore agreed on a set of recommendations to be submitted to ICAO Headquarters. The Meeting formulated the following draft Decision:

SMO/SG2 Decision 2/04: Proposed Recommendations/actions to be taken by ICAO HQ on implementation of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems, Self-assessment of State Safety Programmes (SSP) and safety culture promotion					
Why:	That, to support States in establishing Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS), State Safety Programmes (SSP), and enhancement of promotion of a positive safety culture, ICAO				
What:	a) Continues to provide the implementation support programme for SDCPS and safety data analysis, including training packages, workshops, seminars and e-learning modules; b) Conducts regional capacity-building activities to strengthen positive safety culture among technical personnel and senior management. c) Develop and deploy an enhanced SSP Planning and Monitoring Tool within its Online framework to strengthen States' capabilities for SSP assessment, implementation planning, progress monitoring, and reporting.				
Who:	ICAO HQ				
When:	a, b and c: end of 2028				
Implementation follow up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	Number of regional capacity-building activities conducted Enhanced SSP Planning and Monitoring Tool deployed	Means to collect data	Report to AASPG

Review of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Future Work Programme of the SMO/SG

- 2.2.30 The Meeting reviewed the SMO/SG Terms of Reference, provided in Appendix 5 to this report, and endorsed the proposed work programme and meetings plan for 2027, as presented in Appendix 6 to this WP.

Any other business

- 2.2.31 No additional matter was considered under this agenda item.

Conclusions/Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2)

- 2.2.32 The Secretariat presented the draft conclusions and decisions developed under the various agenda items of the Meeting.
- 2.2.33 The Meeting agreed on the conclusions and decisions, taking into account the status of implementation of the conclusions and decisions from previous meetings, as well as the discussions and amendments proposed during the Meeting to ensure clarity, consistency and alignment with the objectives of the AFI Plan, the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Terms of Reference of the SMO/SG.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) Take note of the information provided in this paper;
 - b) Consider the Decisions and Conclusions stemming from the Second Meeting of the SMO/SG; and
 - c) Consider the draft Project Document on the Strengthening of State Safety Oversight Systems and Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS).