INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Second Meeting of the Africa - Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG/2)

Livingstone, Zambia, 2 - 6 November 2026

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of safety and air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including priorities set in the Regional Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Plans

Implementation of Amendment 18 to Annex 14 Vol. I on Ground Handling Oversight in Nigeria

(Presented by Nigeria)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the actions taken by the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to implement Amendment 18 to Annex 14 Volume I on ground handling oversight in readiness for the applicability date of 26 November 2026. Action required by the Meeting is presented in paragraph 3 of this paper.	
Strategic Goals	*Every flight is safe and secure*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 18 to Annex 14, Volume I introduces provisions requiring States to establish safety oversight of ground handling at their aerodromes, with an applicability date of 26 November 2026. Compliance requires a regulatory basis, designated oversight capacity, authorization and surveillance tools, and trained inspectors.

1.2 This paper summarizes the actions taken by the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to prepare for the applicability date and invites States to share experience and align implementation across the AFI region.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Institutional arrangement.

NCAA established a Ground Handling Oversight Department under the Directorate of Aerodrome and Airspace Standards and constituted a Ground Handling Working Group mandated to develop the regulation (Nig. CARs Part 12 Subpart 5), an Advisory Circular and technical guidance material (authorization, inspection and ground handling operations manual checklists). The Working Group developed a working plan with actions and timeline; engaged the relevant NCAA directorates, developed a change management process for the full implementation by Ground Handling Service Providers, and also the training framework and modalities for NCAA aerodrome staff.

2.2 **Ground Handling Working Group.**

A Working Group was constituted with Terms of Reference to:

a) develop the ground handling regulation, Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations (Nig. CARs) Part 12 Subpart 5, as the legal basis for requirements on ground handling service providers;

b) develop an Advisory Circular on ground handling, giving guidance and acceptable means of compliance; and

c) develop technical guidance material for inspectors and applicants, comprising an (i) authorization checklist, (ii) inspection checklist and (iii) ground handling operations manual checklist.

2.3 **Inter-directorate engagement.**

The Working Group consulted the NCAA directorates below so that the regulation, authorization and oversight process are coherent with existing mandates:

Directorate	Area of engagement
Air Transport Regulation	Authorization of ground handling service providers and economic regulation of Ground Handling Service Providers
Airworthiness	Interface with aircraft servicing, loading and ramp activities affecting aircraft safety.
Licensing and Training Standards	Regulatory Provisions on safe handling of dangerous good, personnel competency and training requirements,
Aviation Security	Security regulatory provisions on ground handling
Legal Services	Legal drafting and vetting, consistency with the Civil Aviation Act, and enforcement provisions.

2.4 **Change management process.**

The Working Group developed a change management process to move NCAA and industry from the current arrangement to the new oversight regime. It included the operator conducting gap analysis of their existing operations and manual with the new regulation; training of CAA aerodrome staff on the new regulation, the Advisory Circular and the use of the authorization and inspection checklists, so that oversight is standardized and consistently applied.

2.5 **Regulatory structure.**

The instruments form a coherent hierarchy: the regulation sets the requirements; the Advisory Circular explains how to comply; and the checklists provide a standard, evidence-based method for authorization and continued surveillance of each provider's operations manual, processes and operations.

2.6 **Way forward to 26 November 2026.**

NCAA will finalize and promulgate the regulation and Advisory Circular, complete staff training, sensitize and engage with ground handling service providers and aerodrome operators, and apply the authorization and inspection process to existing and new providers. It is expected that ground handling service providers will conduct gap analysis and submit implementation plans within six (6) months.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) note the information provided in this paper;

b) encourage States to implement the provisions of Amendment 18 to Annex 14 before 26 November 2026; and

c) encourage States to share experiences on implementation.