INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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

Livingstone, Zambia, from 2 to 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

Ongoing initiatives to strengthen aircraft accident and incident investigation capabilities

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper presents ongoing initiatives and activities in the WACAF region aimed at strengthening aircraft accident and incident investigation (AIG) capabilities for consideration by the Meeting. Action by the Meeting is in **paragraph 3.**
REFERENCES • *Annex 13 - Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation* • *Doc 9756 - Manual of Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation* • *Report of AASPG/1 Meeting*
Strategic Goals: — *A - Every Flight is Safe and Secure* *D - No Country is Left Behind*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chicago Convention and Annex 13 require the State of Occurrence to institute and conduct investigations into aircraft accidents and serious incidents solely for prevention, without apportioning blame or liability. AIG effective implementation remains low, at 48.39 per cent in the AFI region and 52.35 per cent in WACAF, as of October 2026. Challenges relating to the independence of investigation authorities, funding, qualified investigators, procedures and equipment affect timely notification, the conduct of investigations, the publication of final reports, and the issuance and follow-up of safety recommendations.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1. To address the challenges faced by States, the Regional Office strategy includes the development of generic investigation documentation for use by States, the provision of targeted technical assistance, capacity-building activities for investigation personnel, and the establishment of a Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM), including a Regional Pool of Investigators (RPI). The implementation of this strategy is structured in two phases, while technical assistance and capacity-building activities are provided continuously throughout both phases.

PHASE 1 – FOUNDATION (2025–2026)

This phase focused on establishing the foundations for strengthening aircraft accident and incident investigation (AIG) capabilities in the WACAF Region, including the development of key guidance materials, the provision of technical assistance, and the enhancement of the competencies of investigation personnel.

2.2. **Technical assistance in targeted States**

2.2.1. Based on a gap analysis, the Regional Office provided targeted technical assistance, including remote and onsite support for the implementation of action plans. Priority was given to States scheduled for USOAP CMA audits, States with low AIG effective implementation (EI), and those that have not established an aircraft accident and incident investigation authority.

2.3. **Capacity-building activities for State personnel responsible for investigation functions**

2.3.1. Training needs have been identified across the WACAF region, and corresponding capacity-building activities were undertaken to enhance the competencies of investigators and aviation specialists involved in aircraft accident and incident investigations. During 2025–2026, these activities addressed investigation techniques, accident site risk management, ADREP reporting and ECCAIRS 2, as well as flight recorder recovery and data analysis.

2.4. **Development of generic investigation documentation**

2.4.1. A package of 71 generic investigation documents and tools was developed in English and French to support the harmonization of practices and strengthen States' aircraft accident and incident investigation capabilities. The package includes model legislation and regulations, memoranda of understanding, organizational and investigation procedures, and guidance material. The documentation was validated at a Workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, from 20 to 24 April 2026 and subsequently disseminated to States.

2.5. **Establishment of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism and Regional Pool of Investigators**

2.5.1. Following RASG-AFI Decision 10/01, AASPG endorsed , through Decision 1/25, a project aiming to establish a Regional Pool of Investigators (RPI) to strengthen States' investigation capabilities in accordance with Annex 13. Effective implementation of the RPI requires a structured framework to facilitate coordination, define responsibilities and sustain cooperation among participating States. The AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM) was therefore developed to provide this framework, with the RPI serving as one of its principal operational components. A working group under SMO/SG developed the draft RCM Technical Agreement and RPI Appendix, defining governance, participation, responsibilities and investigation assistance procedures.

2.5.2. The RCM provides a flexible and resource-efficient framework for strengthening regional AIG cooperation. It builds on existing national expertise and resources to facilitate investigation assistance, access to specialized capabilities, peer reviews, joint training and harmonization of procedures. It complements existing Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs), while preserving their mandates, States' responsibilities and the independence of investigations.

2.5.3. Participation would be voluntary, formalized through notification and signature of the Technical Agreement. Participating States would designate focal points and alternates, identify available investigators and resources, and govern the mechanism by consensus. The ICAO WACAF Regional Office would serve as the Secretariat, facilitate coordination among participating States and maintain a regional inventory of investigation capabilities. The Regional Office would not direct, conduct, or participate in accident or incident investigations, thereby preserving the independence of investigation authorities.

2.5.4. The proposed RCM and RPI framework was reviewed and technically validated at a workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, from 19 to 23 October 2026, attended by 64 participants representing 21 States and three regional organizations.

PHASE 2 – IMPLEMENTATION (2027 ONWARDS)

2.6. This phase will focus on operationalizing the Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM) and the Regional Pool of Investigators (RPI), while continuing to provide technical assistance to States, including support for the adaptation of the generic investigation documentation to their national frameworks. Capacity-building activities will also be sustained throughout this phase.

3 ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

a) note the progress achieved and the initiatives undertaken to strengthen aircraft accident and incident investigation capabilities;

b) encourage States to continue strengthening their aircraft accident and incident investigation systems by ensuring the functional independence of investigation authorities and the availability of adequate funding, qualified personnel, equipment and technical resources;

c) consider the framework for the AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM), including the Technical Agreement and its Appendix on the Regional Pool of Investigators (RPI), attached to this working paper, as a basis for establishing a regional platform that promotes cooperation, mutual assistance, capacity development, and the sharing of expertise among States;

d) encourage States to participate in the RCM, designate national focal points and alternates, and provide qualified investigators, specialists and resources that may contribute to its implementation.

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Attachment: Technical Agreement on AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism and the Regional Pool of Investigators

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT
WACAF REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISM (RCM) FOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION (AIG)

Preamble
Whereas the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), established under the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944), is mandated to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation, including through the adoption of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) relating to accident and incident investigation and the overall safety of air navigation;

Whereas Article 26 of the Chicago Convention requires the State in which an aircraft accident occurs to institute an investigation into its circumstances, in accordance with applicable national laws and the procedures recommended by ICAO;

Whereas Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention sets out Standards and Recommended Practices governing aircraft accident and incident investigations, enabling States to discharge their responsibilities under the Chicago Convention effectively;

Recognizing that activities conducted under ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA) have highlighted persistent challenges faced by many States in Western and Central Africa (WACAF) Region in establishing and sustaining effective investigation systems, particularly due to constraints in technical expertise and resources;

Taking into consideration that Annex 13 provides for the delegation of all or part of an investigation to another State or to a regional accident investigation organization, subject to mutual agreement and consent;

Recognizing further that strengthened cooperation among States enhances the effectiveness, quality, and independence of safety investigations, and contributes to the development of sustainable regional expertise;

Recalling the RASG-AFI/10 Decision 10/01 on the "development and enhancement of aircraft accident investigation expertise in the Africa-Indian Ocean Region";

Considering the need to formalize and reinforce cooperation among aircraft accident and incident investigation authorities of Member States in the WACAF region;

Considering that the Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM) provides a structured framework to support States, upon request, in fulfilling their responsibilities related to accident and incident investigations, and to improve effective implementation of critical elements in the AIG domain;

Affirming the shared commitment of the participating States to uphold the highest standards in the conduct of aircraft accident and incident investigations;

Therefore, the aircraft accident and incident investigation authorities of the participating States have agreed as follows:

Article 1 – Objective and scope of cooperation

The WACAF AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism aims to enhance the investigation capacities of States and promote the effective and compliant conduct of investigations across the region.

The WACAF AIG RCM is intended to facilitate cooperation among participating States and complement existing national and regional investigation arrangements. It does not confer authority over the national

investigation structures of participating States or alter the mandates of existing regional accident and incident investigation organizations (RAIOs). Participation in the WACAF AIG RCM does not, in itself, constitute delegation of an investigation or any part thereof.

This cooperation framework includes the following activities:

- cooperation in aircraft accident and incident investigations, including participation as accredited representatives, advisers, or technical experts where appropriate.
- exchange of technical expertise, investigation methodologies, and best practices.
- cooperation in safety studies, safety data analysis, and safety promotion activities.
- exchange of non-confidential safety information and investigation reports.
- cooperation in capacity building of investigators.
- cooperation in peer reviews of investigation authorities' capabilities, organization, procedures and practices, with a view to identifying areas for improvement and sharing best practices;
- cooperation in access to specialized investigation equipment, laboratory facilities and other technical resources, and in joint training activities and exercises;

Additional areas of cooperation in aircraft accident and incident investigation may be developed by mutual consent.

Activities related to judicial or enforcement proceedings remain outside the scope of this arrangement.

Article 2 – Terminology

The terms "investigation", "accident", "incident" and "serious incident" used in this technical agreement shall have the meaning ascribed to them in Annex 13 and Annex 19 to the Chicago Convention.

"Participating State" means a State within the WACAF region whose accession to the WACAF AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (RCM) has taken effect in accordance with Article 3 of this Technical Agreement. States granted observer status shall not be considered participating States.

"Observer" means a State outside the WACAF region, a regional accident and incident investigation organization (RAIO), another regional cooperation mechanism or any other entity granted observer status in accordance with Article 3 of this Technical Agreement. An observer may contribute to RCM activities under the applicable arrangements, without participating in decision-making.

Article 3 – Accession to the Cooperation Mechanism

The WACAF AIG RCM is open to States within the WACAF region that accept the terms and conditions of this cooperation framework.

A State may accede to the Cooperation Mechanism by formally notifying the ICAO WACAF Regional Office of its intention to participate. The State shall then:

- designate a national focal point and an alternate for the implementation of the WACAF AIG RCM;
- identify qualified experts and resources that may contribute to the operation of WACAF AIG RCM.

A State's accession shall take effect thirty (30) days after that State signs this Technical Agreement.
Any State may withdraw by providing one-month written notice.

The AIG WACAF RCM may grant observer status to external entities that support its objectives including Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs) alongside States outside the WACAF region, other regional cooperation mechanisms, and other relevant entities.

Requests for observer status shall be submitted in writing to the ICAO WACAF Regional Office, acting as the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall inform participating States through their designated focal points. Observer status is communicated by the Secretariat to the entity concerned.

Observers may, in coordination with the Secretariat:

- participate in meetings, workshops, forums, training activities and other activities conducted under the WACAF AIG RCM.
- provide technical expertise, capacity-building support, specialized capabilities, resources, and contribute to the exchange of experience, best practices.

Observers shall have no decision-making role within the WACAF AIG RCM. Their participation shall respect the mandates of participating States and remain subject to the confidentiality requirements and participation arrangements applicable to each activity.

Participating States may, by consensus, review, suspend or withdraw observer status. The Secretariat shall communicate the decision to the entity concerned.

Article 4 – Responsibilities

Each participating State shall designate a focal point, who may be the head of its investigation authority or another designated officer, to coordinate the implementation of this technical agreement, facilitate communication, and support the mobilization of expertise as required.
Participating States undertake to:

- support the objectives and activities of the RCM;
- fulfil their obligations regarding the regional pool of investigators
- share training opportunities and facilitate the participation of representatives from Member States;
- support and contribute to capacity-building initiatives coordinated by the Secretariat; and
- align their investigation procedures and investigator training program with the harmonized regional investigation documentation;
- ensure that participation in the RCM is consistent with their national laws and international obligations.

Each focal point shall coordinate requests for assistance and maintain national inventories of qualified investigators by specialty, equipment available for sharing, laboratory and technical facilities, and training capabilities and resources. Inventories shall be reviewed at least annually, with relevant updates communicated to the Secretariat, subject to applicable information-sharing restrictions.

The WACAF Regional Office shall act as the Secretariat and ensure the coordination of the WACAF AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism. In this capacity, It shall:

- facilitate communication among participating States;
- establish and maintain a mapping of investigation capabilities within the region, making appropriate use of existing national and RAIO resource inventories and databases, in coordination with the entities concerned and subject to applicable information-sharing arrangements;
- coordinate the activities and functioning of the regional pool of investigators;
- facilitate the harmonization of investigation procedures, practices and training programmes within the region;
- promote the exchange of technical expertise, investigation tools, guidance materials, best practices and lessons learnt from investigations and studies conducted among participating States;
- promote cooperation between participating States and relevant organizations involved in accident and incident investigations;
- support, through peer reviews, the identification of regional gaps and capacity-building needs related to accident and incident investigation;
- develop and implement capacity-building initiatives to address identified regional needs;
- maintain, in consultation with participating States and relevant partners, a regional calendar of capacities building initiatives

- facilitate regional workshops, meetings, exercises and other collaborative activities under the AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism;
- support the organization of the biennial regional forum on aircraft accident and incident investigation to facilitate the sharing of best practices and help participants keep abreast of new developments.

Participating States shall agree, through their focal points and with the support of the Secretariat, on an annual programme of cooperation activities and periodically review its implementation and effectiveness. Coordination meetings may be held in person or remotely. Technical working groups may be established by mutual consent for specific activities, without transferring investigative authority to those groups or to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat acts as a facilitator and shall not participate directly in investigations, while fully respecting the independence of investigations conducted by any Party. Its coordination role does not include directing investigations, appointing investigators on behalf of an investigation authority, or exercising authority over national investigation authorities or RAIOs.

The Secretariat may, as appropriate and in coordination with the participating States, seek technical support from other regional cooperation mechanisms, Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs), or other relevant organizations to support the activities of the AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism, including capacity-building, training, sharing of expertise and best practices, and access to specialized technical capabilities. Where an activity involves resources or functions coordinated by a RAIO, the Secretariat shall coordinate with that organization and the States concerned to agree on their respective contributions

The governance of the WACAF AIG RCM shall be exercised collectively by participating States through their designated national focal points, with coordination and administrative support provided by the Secretariat. Participating States shall agree on regional priorities, the programme of activities and common operating procedures, and review their implementation.

Decisions shall be taken by consensus, expressed through national focal points following any necessary national approvals. The Secretariat shall facilitate consultations, record decisions and coordinate follow-up actions. It shall have no decision-making authority and shall not commit to participating States without their express consent.

A manual governing the functioning of the WACAF AIG RCM shall be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with national focal points and adopted by consensus of participating States. The Manual shall specify:

a) the respective responsibilities of national focal points and the Secretariat;
b) consultation and decision-making procedures, including written consultations, response deadlines, the recording of decisions and arrangements where consensus cannot be reached;
c) procedures for planning, implementing and monitoring WACAF AIG RCM activities;
d) operational arrangements for requests for assistance, resource sharing, investigator selection and deployment, and coordination with relevant partner organizations; and
e) procedures for peer reviews of investigation authorities' capabilities, organization, procedures and practices
f) procedures for suspending and withdrawing observer status, and the conditions governing observer participation.

The Manual and any subsequent amendments shall be adopted by consensus of participating States. They shall remain consistent with this Technical Agreement and shall not amend its provisions or confer investigative authority on the Secretariat.

Technical working groups may be established by mutual consent to address specific topics. They shall be led by representatives of participating States, with the support of the Secretariat. Their functioning shall be described in the WACAF AIG RCM Manual.

Article 5 – Operational and Financial Provisions

Member States shall bear their own costs for activities under this technical agreement unless otherwise agreed. It does not create obligations for the transfer of funds.

Costs associated with requested assistance, shared resources, joint training or other joint activities shall be agreed in advance by the entities concerned, on a case-by-case basis. Any departure from the principle that each Party bears its own costs requires their express agreement. No mandatory contribution or automatic cost-sharing formula is established by this Technical Agreement.

Article 6 – Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

Access to investigation information by investigators, experts and partner organizations participating in WACAF AIG RCM activities shall be subject to applicable confidentiality and information-protection requirements. Before access is granted, the authority providing the information shall determine the applicable conditions governing its access, use, storage and further disclosure.
Each participating State shall ensure that:

- information and documents received from another State are not disclosed to third parties, except where required by applicable laws;
- Information related to investigations is handled in accordance with the principles of independence and protection of information established in Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

These obligations survive the termination of this technical agreement or the withdrawal of any Party.

Article 7 – Legal Status

This Technical agreement reflects a mutual intention to cooperate and does not create contractual obligations. Nothing in this Technical agreement affects the duties, powers, legal and administrative obligations of any participating States, including those arising from their membership in RAIOs. Participation in the AIG WACAF RCM shall not amend, replace or supersede the agreements establishing those organizations or transfer investigative authority to the Secretariat.

No Party shall incur rights or liabilities arising solely from this technical agreement.
No Party shall be liable for direct or indirect damages arising from technical agreement activities.
Disputes arising from interpretation or implementation of this technical agreement shall be resolved amicably among Parties and shall not be referred to courts or international tribunals.

Parties remain free to enter into similar agreements with other entities.

Article 8 – Validity and Termination
This Technical agreement remains valid unless terminated by all participating States.

Any amendment to this technical agreement or its annexes, as well as the addition of any new annex, shall require the mutual consent of participating States. Such consent shall be expressed on behalf of each State by the head of its investigation authority or their duly designated representative, following any necessary national approvals.

Activities and arrangements ongoing at the date of termination may continue until completion, subject to the agreement of the States and entities concerned.
This Technical Agreement is established in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

APPENDIX I TO THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENT ON THE WACAF AIG RCM
REGIONAL POOL OF INVESTIGATORS (RPI)

1. Preamble & Commitment

Participating States of the WACAF AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism:

- recognize the international nature of civil aviation and the importance of maintaining high standards of safety;
- aim to promote compliance with the Chicago Convention and its Annexes, in particular Annex 13;
- acknowledge that effective and compliant safety investigations are essential to prevent future accidents and incidents;
- understand the need for coordinated responses to major accidents and simultaneous occurrences;
- seek to optimize resources, share expertise, relevant information and best practices during investigation, and strengthen regional investigation capabilities;

Participating States commit to these principles and undertake to collaborate in the establishment and management of the regional pool of investigators, to ensure the effective conduct of independent and compliant investigations across the WACAF region.

2. Rationale for a Regional Pool of Investigators

The WACAF region includes States with varying levels of technical and investigation capacity.

Establishing a regional pool of investigators aims to strengthen the capacity of participating States, regardless of size or resources, to conduct effective and independent safety investigations in compliance with Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention.

The regional pool of investigators also enhances resilience during major or simultaneous events, enabling rapid mobilization of specialized expertise.

By promoting collaboration, standardization and resource optimization, the regional pool of investigators contributes to consistent quality investigation and improved overall aviation safety performance across the region.

This Appendix describes the organizational and governance framework, including selection criteria, training requirements and code of conduct for the regional pool of investigators.

3. Governance Framework

The regional pool of investigators operates within the governance framework of the WACAF AIG RCM. The responsibilities of participating States and the Secretariat are allocated as follows:

1. The ICAO WACAF Regional Office acts as the Secretariat and is responsible for the overall coordination of the RPI. It shall:
    - facilitate the identification and nomination of qualified investigators and specialists to the regional pool of investigators;
    - establish and maintain a mapping of investigation capabilities and specialized expertise across the region;
    - establish and maintain a database of investigators and specialists of the regional pool of investigators;
    - coordinate the deployment of regional investigators and support the assessment of conflict of interest in coordination with the state conducting the investigation;
    - support capacity building activities including workshops and investigation training and exercises, peer reviews and capability assessments of regional investigators;
    - support coordination and information sharing among Participating States and regional stakeholders;
    - prepare annual performance reports on the activities and functioning of the regional pool of investigators for review by the Participating States.
2. Participating States shall:
    - designate a focal point and an alternate to support the management of the pool;
    - nominate investigators meeting the established criteria of the regional pool of Investigators;
    - develop and maintain the competency of local investigators and specialists and ensure their readiness for deployment, including:

        - the effective implementation of individual development plans, in particular recurrent training on hazards at accident sites;
        - ensuring that investigators are physically and mentally fit for deployment;
        - providing deployed investigators with minimum protective and investigation equipment and materials (Go-Kit);
        - ensuring the timely issuance of the necessary legal and administrative authorization for deployment to another State
    - update investigators' availability status on a regular basis
    - align their investigation procedures and investigators training programmes with the harmonized regional investigation documentation.

4. Responsibilities of Stakeholders during deployment of investigators

The activation process of the regional pool of investigators follows the steps described:

1. A State conducting the investigation submits a request to the ICAO WACAF Regional Office to facilitate assistance by the regional pool of investigators, describing the occurrence and specifying the scope of the investigation and the support required.
2. The ICAO WACAF Regional Office:
    - identifies the appropriate regional investigators to support the State based on required technical specialization, availability, language, and supports the identification and assessment of potential conflicts of interest, in coordination with the State conducting the investigation and State Focal Points;
    - consults participating State Focal Points to confirm availability and readiness of the identified investigators needed;
    - proposes a deployment team to the State of occurrence for validation;
    - coordinates logistical or legal requirements necessary for deployment.
3. The State of occurrence:
    - facilitates the deployment of the required regional investigators and/or specialists, including access to the country, transportation and provision of sufficient daily subsistence allowances;
    - authorizes deployed investigators and specialists to participate in the investigation and specifies their status, functions and responsibilities, under the authority of the IIC, in compliance with Annex 13 and applicable national law;
    - provides adequate equipment, material and relevant information to ensure proper support for the investigation.
4. At the conclusion of the deployment, investigators return to their respective Participating States;
5. The ICAO WACAF Regional Office, in coordination with Participating States, documents lessons learned.

5. Regional Investigators

5.1 Selection criteria

Safety Investigators of States

Safety Investigators of States should meet the following baseline criteria:

Qualification

- Hold a first-level university degree in aeronautical engineering, operations or in another aviation related field; or
- Hold or have previously held a technical qualification in aviation such as a pilot license, air traffic control license or airframe and power plant technician certification; or
- Have relevant academic and professional qualifications in human factors or medical fields, such as psychology, ergonomics, or human sciences.

Experience

- Have at least five (05) years' experience, for holders of degree or technical qualification, in one of the following domains:

  - airworthiness (safety oversight, aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, repair, and overhaul – structures, engines, avionics);
  - operations (safety oversight, aircraft operations, air navigation services and aerodrome operations).
- Have a minimum of 1,500 flight hours for aeroplane pilot and 750 flight hours for helicopter pilot; or
- Have at least five (05) years of relevant experience in the fields of human factors and medicine, including aeronautical medicine and legal/forensic medicine, for holders of relevant academic and professional qualifications in human factors or medical fields.

Training
- have successfully completed basic investigation training including familiarization training, initial formal training and on-the-job training.

Participating States are encouraged to harmonize their investigator selection criteria, in accordance with the above provisions.

Investigators of the regional pool
Investigators nominated for the regional pool of investigators shall:
- have a minimum of three (03) years' experience as an aviation safety investigator with a state's accident investigation authority and meet the minimum qualification and experience described below;
- have demonstrated practical experience in the conduct of accidents and incidents, including having served at least a role played as Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) or head of a group; and
- possess good knowledge of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) related to Annex 13 and other related provisions;

5.2 Competency development
The development of regional investigator competencies shall be ensured by each Member State concerned.
Participating States are encouraged to harmonize investigator training programmes in accordance with the model provided in Attachment A. An individual development plan should be established for each investigator and effectively implemented.

ICAO WACAF Regional Office will support the capacity-building of investigators through:
- Workshops on specific AIG topics, including both basic and advanced/specialized accident investigation training and practical exercises;
- A biannual regional aircraft accident investigation forum for the sharing of best practices and to remain informed of new developments.

5.3 Code of conduct
Investigators and specialists of the pool shall:
- perform their duties with integrity, impartiality, professionalism and independence;
- avoid any conflict of interest and refuse any undue advantage or external influence and promptly report any conflict of interest.
- maintain confidentiality and protect sensitive information and materials obtained in the course of their duties;
- demonstrate competence, courtesy, good communication and respect in their interaction with all stakeholders;
- undertake only duties for which they possess the required qualifications and competencies;
- respect the dignity and equality of all persons and refrain from any form of discrimination.

During their deployment and participation in an investigation, the regional investigators shall:
- comply with Annex 13 and with the regulations and investigation procedures in force in the State conducting the investigation;
- comply with applicable safety and security requirements at the accident sites;
- use investigation equipment and resources responsibly and in accordance with applicable procedures;
- handle all shared materials and information in accordance with applicable confidentiality and proprietary protection requirements;

6. Financial Principles

The deployment of regional investigators and specialists shall be agreed in advance, on a case-by-case basis, by the States and entities concerned, in accordance with Article 5 of the Technical Agreement. The allocation of costs described below provides an indicative framework, applicable subject to their express agreement.
Responsibilities of stakeholders are as follows:

- State providing the investigators and specialists:
  - maintains the expert's salary, benefits, and insurance coverage during deployment.
  - ensures continuity of employment and social protection obligations.
- State of occurrence/conducting the investigation:
  - covers costs associated with travel, accommodation, meals, and in-country deployment expenses.

United Nations rates may serve as a reference for determining daily subsistence allowances, under arrangements agreed by the States and entities concerned, while avoiding duplicate coverage of the same expenses.

- provides accreditation, access to facilities, equipment, and operational support necessary for participation of the deployed investigators and/or specialists
- ICAO WACAF Regional Office may:
  - facilitate the mobilization of donor support and partnerships for training activities, specialized deployments and capability-building initiatives related to the regional pool of investigators;
  - support coordination between Participating States regarding financial and administrative arrangements for deployments

7. Quality Assurance and Review

The regional pool of investigators shall be subject to an annual review to ensure effectiveness, consistency and continuous improvement.
The review shall cover:

- number and type of deployments conducted during the year;
- lessons learned from investigations;
- gaps in specialist availability and technical coverage;
- updates to investigation standards, procedures, and training requirements;
- feedback from States that benefited from the support of the regional pool of investigators.

8. Amendments

This Appendix may be amended on a proposal from the Secretariat or a participating State, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 8 of the Technical Agreement.