



THIRTEENTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, Canada, 9 to 19 October 2018

COMMITTEE A

Agenda Item 4: Implementing the global air navigation system and the role of planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs)

4.3: Implementing ASBUs for performance improvement

AFRICAN AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES PROVIDERS (ANSPs) PEER REVIEW PROGRAMME

(Presented by 54 Contracting States, Members of the African Civil Aviation
Commission (AFCAC²))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents information related to the African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review Programme, which was launched in February 2015 by the ICAO Council President.

This initiative is aimed at establishing a regional framework of cooperation and peer review mechanism to improve air navigation operational performance in Africa, and some ANSPs have initiated trials and drawn useful lessons.

The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) established in 2016 a specific project dedicated to support the development and implementation of an effective regional framework for this safety initiative.

Action: The Conference is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this paper;
- b) encourage ICAO to continue to provide its support to the African ANSP Peer Review Programme;
- c) recognize the important contribution being provided by the AFI Plan towards the implementation of an effective regional framework for the African ANSP Peer Review Programme;
- d) request African ANSPs to work together to operationalize the African ANSP Peer Review Programme to enhance safety and efficiency of air transport operations in Africa; and
- e) encourage the other ICAO Regions to take benefits of this experience of African ANSP Peer Review Programme, as a means of improvement of Air Navigation services.

¹ English and French versions provided by AFCAC.

² Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cap Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of The Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Republic of Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome And Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic Of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the initiative of the President of the ICAO Council, a meeting of the African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) was held in Montréal on 4 February 2015, to discuss the need to identify ways and means of addressing some challenges the air navigation services are facing in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region. The meeting was convened as a result of the following issues:

- a) current safety level in African ANSPs;
- b) mechanism to monitor the performance of ANSPs globally;
- c) ICAO's concern on low effective implementation of the critical elements of a State safety oversight system in many African States in the air navigation fields; and
- d) lack of an industry safety review scheme for air navigation services (ANS), akin to those provided by International Air Transport Association (IATA) - (IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA)) and Airports Council International (ACI) - (Airport Excellence in Safety (APEX)).

1.2 The meeting emphasized the importance of effective oversight with a clear delineation between regulator and air navigation services provider (ANSP) functions, and recalled that it was recognized around the world that this could be further enhanced by cooperation between ANSPs themselves, particularly in enhancing quality assurance. It was further noted that airlines had become well acquainted with the notion of regulatory oversight, and also with self-regulated oversight, such as IOSA certification, which had provided tangible and measurable benefits, and at the same time, in turn, assisted the certification and regulatory authorities in their responsibilities.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) scope covers all safety-related technical areas considered under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). In March 2013, the AFI Plan was expanded to include the additional areas of air navigation services (ANS), aerodromes (AGA) and aircraft accident and incident investigation (AIG), while maintaining primary focus on the areas of personnel licensing (PEL), operation of aircraft (OPS) and airworthiness of aircraft (AIR), with an effort to ensure the alignment of the Plan with the Abuja Declaration and Safety Targets established in July 2012. Assembly Resolution A38-7 supported the continuation and expansion of the AFI Plan.

2.2 The AFI Plan seventeenth Steering Committee meeting, held during the third AFI Aviation Week in June 2016, approved a project dedicated to the implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme, which is intended to help ANSPs to continuously improve the safety and quality of air navigation operations in view of the limited ANS regulatory oversight in the African Region.

2.3 During the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly a working Paper (A39-WP/456) was presented by the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) on behalf of African ANSPs. The Assembly was informed that the African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review Programme was launched in February 2015 by the President of the ICAO Council. The Assembly was also informed that the aim of this initiative was to establish a regional framework of

cooperation and peer review mechanism to improve air navigation operational performance in Africa, and that some ANSPs have initiated trials and drawn useful lessons.

2.4 The terms of reference of the ANSP Peer Review Programme Coordination Team were established in June 2015. Immediately following on the eighteenth AFI Plan SC meeting, an AFI ANSPs Coordination Meeting chaired by the President of the ICAO Council was held on 1 October 2016 in Montréal, and formulated recommendations concerning the way forward.

2.5 A successful follow up meeting on these recommendations, which was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone 3 to 5 May 2017, developed and endorsed a Programme Reference Manual as well as a Cooperation Framework and a Roadmap for 2017-2018, to govern the implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme, including, among others, cooperation activities in the provision of air navigation services. The next steps include: selection and training of reviewers, conduct of pilot reviews, development and implementation of corrective action plans and project evaluation. Accordingly, the training of reviewers has been coordinated with ASECNA and Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and conducted from 25 to 27 April 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

3. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 A series of regional meetings have taken place to further develop a suitable African ANSP cooperation framework, including in Durban, South Africa in June 2015, Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire in December 2015 and Accra, Ghana in September 2016. The terms of reference of this framework were adopted in June 2015, and implementation activities have already been initiated on a voluntary basis among ANSPs. Pioneers include: Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and ASECNA in 2015 and 2016, and lessons learnt are being considered towards formal establishment of a regional framework of cooperation, as well as modalities and tools for operational implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme.

3.2 ANSPs and Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) have formed the following teams:

- **Team 1:** ASECNA, Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), Botswana CAA, Swaziland CAA;
- **Team 2:** Uganda CAA, Tanzania CAA, Burundi CAA, Rwanda CAA and Kenya CAA;
- **Team 3:** Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Ghana CAA, Roberts flight information region (FIR);
- **Team 4:** Mozambique Airports, Malawi, ASECNA, Zimbabwe CAA, Zambia Airports; and
- **Team 5:** Morocco CAA, Tunisia, Algeria.

3.3 In addition, the following actions have been taken:

- a) All CANSO members in Africa have signed a declaration of commitment to the peer review;
- b) ANSPs/States have identified peers based on similar characteristics (e.g. airspace, equipment, procedures or even sub-region etc.) to assist in pairing ANSPs for peer review purposes;

- c) Partner ANSPs Peers have signed confidentiality agreements between and among each other;
- d) Four teams of ANSPs have already formed and conducted peer support between and among each other;
- e) Peer review visits have already taken place;
- f) The Regional Training Workshop on the ICAO Peer Review Manual took place in Côte d'Ivoire from 25-27 April 2018; and
- g) The peers are also required to provide a brief report on the status of implementation of safety management system (SMS) with reference to the ICAO four-phased implementation approach.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The implementation of the AFI Plan Project on the African ANSP Peer Review Programme which was launched in 2016, continues to build on on-going initiatives/activities to facilitate the development and implementation of an effective regional framework for this programme.

4.2 The benefits of the African ANSP Peer Review initiative include the following:

- a) pooling of internal monitoring capabilities and cost reduction;
- b) sustainability of the results of the review due to the independence of the system;
- c) effective preparation of ANSPs in the process towards safety oversight/certification by civil aviation authorities;
- d) assurance on the continuous improvement of the safety and quality of air navigation services in the AFI Region; and
- e) assurance of a minimum level of safety oversight of ANSPs in States where the national authorities face some difficulties (No ANSP Left Behind in the oversight process).

4.3 The African ANSP Peer Review Programme provides a forum for stakeholders to address safety issues in a pragmatic manner, and to advance cooperation between air navigation service providers in order to foster enhanced quality of service in air navigation in the spirit of the Almadies/Dakar Declaration (2002), Gauteng Declaration (2005) and Cotonou Declaration (2010) adopted by previous regional meetings of African ANSPs.

4.4 In addition, the programme is also an enabler for the implementation of the revised Abuja Safety targets and the AFI Air Navigation Performance Indicators and Targets including the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) objectives and the Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) modules priorities identified for the AFI Region by AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG).