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Regional Cooperation in Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation

Outcome of Working Group 23

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Why WG-23 was established

MANDATE

Review and enhance ICAO Doc 9946 and examine broader regional cooperation models.

DRIVER

Regional cooperation can help States access investigation capability, expertise and resources.

KEY QUESTION

How can cooperation be structured without compromising the State's obligations under Annex 13?

WG-23's work was established to look beyond a single RAIO model and provide practical cooperation options.

What WG-23 found

Survey of 114 Contracting States

74.6%

indicated a need for new
guidance

46.5%

supported updating Doc
9946

24.6%

favoured a new document

Key gaps identified

Procedures and legal aspects

Cross-regional cooperation

Practical arrangements for States with limited investigation capacity

From the gap to a practical framework

WG-23 developed draft guidance built around a flexible, three-level model of investigation cooperation.

01

Bilateral/Multilateral

Cooperation agreements for sharing resources and expertise.

02

Regional ICM

A formal regional mechanism with coordinated processes and shared resources.

03

RAIO

A fully integrated regional aircraft accident and incident investigation organization.

The three levels of cooperation

Level 1

Bilateral / Multilateral

MoU / MoC / Declaration
of Intent
Resource and expertise
sharing

Level 2

Regional ICM

Regional agreement
Coordinated processes
Shared resources

Level 3

RAIO

Integrated regional
organization
Existing Doc 9946 framework

The framework is intended to accommodate different regional circumstances and levels of cooperation.

What the new guidance would address

Delegation

Decision-making and arrangements for delegating investigations.

Resources

Pooling investigators, expertise, tools and equipment.

Capability

Training and qualification requirements.

Governance

Financial management and monitoring of cooperation agreements.

At the same time, WG-23 retained the current Annex 13 independence provisions.

Options considered by WG-23

OPTION 1

Develop a new manual for Levels 1 and 2, and summary of Level 3, for cross-references, while retaining Doc 9946 for detailed Level 3 (RAIOs).

OPTION 2

Develop one consolidated document covering common guidance across all three levels.

WG-23 supported Option 1, while preserving detailed RAIO guidance and avoiding disruption to existing RAIO arrangements.

AIGP/10: key discussion and outcome

The meeting considered the relationship between regional cooperation and the State's obligations under Annex 13.

Participation in a RAIO does not, under the current framework, remove the State's responsibility to maintain the required legislative and other arrangements.

The meeting agreed that a new ICAO Manual on Regional Cooperation should be developed, with Doc 9946 reviewed and updated for consistency.

AIGP/10 — Action 4/3: Regional Cooperation

Based on the outcome of the last meeting, the following was agreed:

- 01** Continue developing a new manual for regional cooperation in coordination with the Secretariat Regional Safety Cooperation Unit (RSCU).
- 02** Update the Manual on RAIO (Doc 9946) for consistency with the new Manual.

Action 4/3 — AIGP/10

Thank You

