



ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14: Technical Assistance Programme

AFRICAN AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES PROVIDERS (ANSPS)  
PEER REVIEW PROGRAMME

(Presented by ASECNA on behalf of the African Air Navigation Services  
Providers Steering Group<sup>1</sup>)

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) is in the process of implementing a specific project dedicated to support the development and implementation of an effective regional framework for this safety initiative.

**Action:** The Assembly 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, in coordination with the African Air Navigation Services Providers Steering Group;
- 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 mean of improvement of Air Navigation services.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Safety and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objectives.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	
<i>References:</i>	A39-WP/27 A39-WP/215

<sup>1</sup> ASECNA, ATNS of South Africa, CANSO, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria ANSPs, ICAO (Member) and AFCAC

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the initiative of the President of the 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

### ***Background***

#### *ANSP Coordination Meeting, Montréal, 4 February 2015*

2.1 The meeting established a Technical Group to be assisted by ICAO, comprising ANSPs from Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and ASECNA and Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), as well as any other volunteering ANSPs. The established Technical Group was to develop a regional framework of cooperation and peer review, as well as terms of reference to benchmark performance in specific areas, and to identify best practices that could be shared to improve air navigation performance. It was also requested to submit an information paper on its work to the Fifteenth Meeting of the AFI Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan), during the second AFI Aviation Week in Maputo, Mozambique in May 2015. It was agreed that the Technical Group would meet in Madrid, Spain on 7 March 2015 prior to the CANSO Global ATM Congress to which several AFI ANSPs were expected to participate.

#### *ANSP Coordination Meeting, Madrid, Spain, 7 March 2015*

2.2 The Technical Group meeting held in Madrid, on 7 March 2015, discussed the scope of the African ANSP Peer Review programme based on available material which can be used to implement safety management systems and increase levels of safety maturity in accordance with the provisions of

Annex 19 – *Safety Management* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation as well as a number of other aspects that would need to be covered to support a review process for all ANS sub-areas, and provide what would be akin to the eight critical elements of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) from an ANSP perspective. The meeting noted that having adequate expertise and financial resources were crucial to achieving an effective peer review system, and agreed that a project management approach should be adopted.

2.3 The meeting particularly established *an African ANSP Steering Group with a view to developing* a regional framework and a mechanism for improving ANS safety performance in Africa, including peer review, composed of the following members: ASECNA (Chair), Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), South Africa (Vice-Chair), CANSO (Member and Secretariat), Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria ANSPs (Members), ICAO (Member) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) (Observer)<sup>2</sup>. It also discussed priority issues to be addressed *by the cooperation mechanism*. It was noted that ICAO would continue to play an active role in supporting the initiative through the AFI Regional Offices.

#### ***Description of the Peer Review Concept***

2.4 The main objectives of the initiative are to: a) establish and maintain a uniform level of safety for the AFI Region which should at least be equal to the international requirements; b) assist ANSPs in fulfilling their international obligations related to air navigation services, including: air traffic services (ATS), the design of flight procedures, aeronautical information service (AIS), mapping, meteorology (MET), communications, navigation, and surveillance (CNS), search and rescue (SAR) and safety management system (SMS); c) pooling toolkits, human resources and available training and integrating safety and quality reviews within a safety and quality assurance programme specific to the ANSPs in order to reduce certification costs. Its activities will be based on cross reviews by independent teams of experts from other ANSPs and other bodies of civil aviation; sharing of experiences and best practices; mutual assistance; and data protection.

2.5 Reports of review activities to be conducted by independent teams of experts, will be sent to the concerned ANSP which will develop the corrective/preventive action plans accordingly; and regular monitoring and assessment of the status of implementation of these corrective/preventive action plans will be organized. The review experts will be selected from among ANSPs and other civil aviation entities, using comprehensive guidance material under development with the support of ICAO (Air Navigation Bureau and relevant Regional Offices), and relevant industry best practices of stakeholders such as the CANSO.

2.6 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;

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<sup>2</sup> Note.— *The Steering Group would give consideration to other members wishing to join the group.*

- 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).

2.7 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.

#### ***Status of Implementation activities by African ANSPs***

2.8 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 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.

#### ***AFI Plan support***

2.9 Consistent with the mandate assigned to the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) whose scope covers all safety-related technical areas considered under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), its 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.

#### ***Way forward***

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