



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ENDORSES NEW STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA

MONTREAL, 18 September 2007 – A new strategy for sustained improvements in aviation safety in Africa was endorsed yesterday by representatives of 40 States from the African Region and world aviation stakeholders during a high-level meeting held at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), on the eve of the 36th Session of the Organization's Assembly which runs from today to 28 September.

The *Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa*, or AFI Plan, was developed by ICAO in cooperation with African civil aviation authorities and the air transport industry. Entities taking an active part in the meeting included the African Union, the African Civil Aviation Commission, the European Commission and the World Bank.

"The AFI Plan represents the most coordinated and inclusive effort ever to deal with the very serious safety challenges facing the majority of African States. The positive response from States as well as donor organizations is very encouraging for the timely implementation of the Plan," said Roberto Kobeh González, President of the Council of ICAO.

The more than 300 participants from Africa and around the world agreed that a draft Resolution be submitted to the ICAO Assembly, calling for voluntary contributions to provide States in need with human and financial resources to implement the Plan. Finally, the meeting approved a Declaration indicating their commitment to reinforcing the African safety framework (attached).

The AFI Plan differs from past initiatives in that it integrates ICAO's performance-based Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the air transport industry's new Global Aviation Safety Roadmap, both of which focus on activities with the highest return for improving safety.

The result is a holistic and systemic approach based on a disciplined, programme management methodology. It includes specific key stakeholders, identification of risks, gap analyses, prioritized recommended actions and continuous monitoring and evaluation. The Plan will stress clearly defined objectives, outputs, activities and performance measures, as well as transparency and accountability at every level.

"The AFI Plan will only succeed with the political will of States and the enthusiastic, tangible support of industry and donors. In the end, this Plan is Africa's Plan. It is your Plan. It was created with your help, to solve your problems, and will only work if you make it yours," Kobeh told participants.

Under the leadership of ICAO, the Plan will draw upon expertise available in the Organization's Headquarters and Regional Offices in Africa, the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG), other Contracting States and concerned stakeholders such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) and international funding agencies like the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

The Plan's initial implementation phase is expected to cover a four-year period. The next step will be a special regional air navigation meeting in 2008, which will serve as a checkpoint for progress. A decision on the need to continue the Plan will be made by the ICAO Council after a three-year review.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.
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**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR
AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA**

DRAFT DECLARATION

Whereas the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its Annexes provide the essential framework required to meet the safety needs of a global aviation system;

Whereas the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is recognized as the global forum for civil aviation which works to achieve safe, secure and sustainable development of civil aviation through cooperation amongst its Contracting States;

Whereas the 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly urges Contracting States to adopt the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) objectives to reduce aircraft accidents and to reduce the worldwide accident rate;

Whereas the Council of ICAO has agreed that a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa should be developed and presented to a high-level meeting;

Whereas, under ICAO's leadership, the Plan calls for collaboration by the regulatory agencies and industry in the implementation of initiatives aimed at rectifying aviation safety deficiencies;

Considering the Libreville Resolution and Plan of Action adopted by the African Union Ministers Responsible for Air Transport in May 2006, whereby the Ministers undertook to reduce the rate of aircraft accidents in Africa to the world average by 2008;

The Meeting hereby commits to reinforce the African safety framework by:

1. *recognizing* the important role of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), a specialized agency of the African Union, and calling upon it to exercise leadership in the implementation of the Plan;
2. *endorsing* the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa;
3. *recommending* that the Plan be built upon tangible implementation initiatives which are already taking place in the Africa-Indian Ocean area;
4. *urging* Contracting States in Africa to commit to the implementation of the Plan, in accordance with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP);
5. *invoking* the heightened leadership role of ICAO, supported by strong management and coordination amongst States, to continue assisting in the development of an integrated approach to safety initiatives in Africa;
6. *urging* all Contracting States to share with other Contracting States critical safety information which may have an impact on the safety of international air navigation and to facilitate access to all relevant safety information;
7. *calling* for the expeditious implementation of safety management systems across the aviation industry in Africa;
8. *calling* for African States to demonstrate the political will to address aviation deficiencies;
9. *urging* African States and industry to closely coordinate their efforts with ICAO in order to ensure optimum benefits to aviation safety in Africa and to reduce duplication in effort; and
10. *inviting* the Assembly to adopt the draft Assembly resolution.