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NATIONAL AVIATION SAFETY PLAN

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

REVISION NO. 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information Paper presents the Development of the Saudi Arabia National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP). The NASP has been developed in alignment with the requirements of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), the Middle East Regional Aviation Safety Plan (MID-RASP), and Saudi Arabia's national priorities.

The NASP is a key enabler for the implementation of Saudi Arabia's State Safety Programme (SSP) and a critical tool for managing the rapid growth of the aviation sector under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. This paper discusses the objectives, structure, governance, and implementation framework of Saudi Arabia's NASP, demonstrating its role in mitigating national safety risks and supporting Saudi Arabia's strategic safety priorities.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to <i>Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Activities to be undertaken within existing budgetary allocations
<i>References:</i>	Annex 19 — <i>Safety Management</i> Doc 10004, <i>Global Aviation Safety Plan</i> (GASP) Doc 9859, <i>Safety Management Manual</i> (SMM) Doc 10131, <i>Manual on the Development of Regional and National Aviation Safety Plans</i> Doc 10159, <i>Safety Intelligence Manual</i> Doc 10184, <i>Assembly Resolutions in Force</i> MID Regional Aviation Safety Plan (MID-RASP) – Second Edition 2023-2025.

¹ English and Arabic versions provided by Saudi Arabia.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Saudi Arabia is experiencing significant growth in its civil aviation sector, driven by the ambitious goals of Saudi Vision 2030 and the Saudi Aviation Strategy. This expansion necessitates a robust, proactive, and data-driven approach to safety management to ensure that growth is managed sustainably and safely.

1.2 In accordance with ICAO Annex 19, Safety Management, and guided by the principles of the ICAO GASP (Doc 10004), Saudi Arabia has established a comprehensive State Safety Programme (SSP). The National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) is the primary strategic document that operationalizes the Saudi Arabia SSP. It translates the high-level safety policies and objectives of the SSP into concrete goals, targets, and Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs).

1.3 The National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) is a key strategic document defining national aviation safety goals, targets, and Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) in alignment with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and Middle East Regional Aviation Safety Plan (MID-RASP).

1.4 The Saudi Arabia NASP is developed based on the global and regional safety frameworks, including the GASP and the MID-RASP. The 2023-2025 edition of the NASP set the foundation of robust and sustainable framework for safety management, while the current 2025–2027 edition is aiming to support and sustain the management of rapid growth of civil aviation activities while establishing Saudi Arabia as a leader in aviation safety.

1.5 In line with the framework provided in ICAO Doc 10131, the Saudi Arabia NASP is built upon a set of clear objectives designed to address Saudi Arabia's specific safety landscape and strategic ambitions. These objectives are:

- a) Operational risk reduction: To apply data-driven SEIs targeting the ICAO Global High-Risk Categories (G-HRCs), including runway excursions, controlled flight into terrain (CFIT), loss of control in-flight (LOC-I), mid-air collision, and runway incursion;
- b) Emerging Technologies Challenges: To proactively identify and mitigate emerging risks associated with the adoption of new technologies (e.g., AI, Advanced Air Mobility) within the Saudi Arabia aviation system.
- c) Saudi Arabia National Priorities: To allocate appropriate resources to effectively manage Saudi Arabia's specific national safety priorities, in addition to global and regional ones;
- d) Enhanced safety oversight: To expand and mature the SSP and Safety Management Systems (SMS) implementation and oversight capacity among the regulator (GACA) and all industry stakeholders;
- e) Safety governance: Strengthening SSP governance via the National Aviation Safety Committee (NASC) and its dedicated SSP Specialized Working Groups covering ANS, AGA, Flight OPS, and Airworthiness. The working Groups involve representatives from the relevant stakeholders, operators, and service providers.

- f) Regional collaboration: To increase synergy with the MID-RASP and collaborate with regional stakeholders to enhance aviation safety across the Middle East.

2. NASP STRUCTURE AND ALIGNMENT

2.1 The NASP is a key output of an effective SSP. The Saudi Arabia SSP adopted a proactive approach to managing national aviation safety risks. It includes the necessary governance, regulations, policies, processes, and procedures to maintain a safe aviation system. The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) is aiming to fully implement an effective SSP by the end of 2027, with supporting actions defined under the NASP.

2.2 The Saudi Arabia NASP structure is designed to be a practical and effective tool for implementing the Saudi Arabia SSP. It is built on two main pillars, reflecting the core components of modern safety management:

- a) Manage Safety Risks: This pillar focuses on the identification and mitigation of operational safety risks. It includes a detailed analysis of national safety data to identify Saudi Arabia-specific hazards and High-Risk Categories (HRCs), while ensuring alignment with the G-HRCs identified in the GASP. The NASP details the contributing factors for these risks and outlines specific SEIs that operators and service providers should consider as part of their SMS to prevent incidents and accidents;
- b) Manage Strategic Safety Priorities: This pillar focuses on the continuous improvement of the State Safety Programme itself. It includes SEIs aimed at strengthening Saudi Arabia's safety oversight system, enhancing SMS oversight, and maturing the overall safety culture. This is a strategic priority for Saudi Arabia to achieve its aspiration of becoming a regional leader in aviation safety, in line with Vision 2030. The actions in the NASP reflect this ambition and are supported by the necessary resources and collaborative efforts from all Saudi Arabia aviation stakeholders.

3. NASP GOVERNANCE

3.1 A robust governance framework, as described in the Saudi Arabia SSP document, underpins the development and implementation of the NASP. This ensures clear accountability and effective oversight:

- a) General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA): As the aviation safety regulator, GACA is responsible for the development, implementation, monitoring, and updating of the NASP in coordination with all SSP stakeholders;
- b) National Aviation Safety Committee (NASC): Chaired by the President of GACA, the NASC is the highest governing body for the SSP and NASP. It meets quarterly to oversee the implementation of the plan, monitor overall safety performance, and provide strategic direction;

- c) SSP Working Groups (SSP WGs): These are technical bodies (e.g., Flight OPS, AIR, ANS, AGA) comprised of experts from GACA and the industry. They support the NASC with hazard identification, risk assessments, and the detailed planning and implementation of SEIs.

4. NASP IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 To enhance and operationalize Saudi Arabia's State Safety Programme (Saudi Arabia, SSP), a comprehensive implementation plan has been developed in alignment with identified safety risks and strategic priorities. This plan encompasses 19 initiatives and 152 actions across 14 categories, with an ownership distributed among 13 key stakeholders within Saudi Arabia's aviation sector. This approach ensures that the NASP is not merely a high-level document but a practical, actionable roadmap with clear ownership and defined deliverables, driving measurable improvements in safety performance.

4.2 The Saudi Arabia NASP is a dynamic plan that will evolve to meet future challenges. The post-2027 focus will include:

- a) Continuing to mature safety oversight, stakeholder SMS effectiveness, and a positive safety culture;
- b) Incorporating emerging aviation technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) operations, into the safety framework with an expansion of AI use for safety data analysis to identify safety trends and latent conditions;
- c) Enhancing data-sharing, regional initiatives, and the integration of governance bodies (NASC & SSP WGs);
- d) Sustaining and strengthening collaboration with ICAO, the MID-RASP, industry, and other international stakeholders.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Saudi Arabia's NASP 2025–2027 is a robust, data-driven, and ICAO-aligned roadmap that is essential for supporting the ambitious aviation growth of Vision 2030 with an uncompromised commitment to safety.

5.2 Through its clear objectives, a dual-pillar structure focused on both operational risks and strategic priorities, and a strong governance framework, the NASP provides the necessary tool to effectively implement the Saudi Arabia State Safety Programme:

5.3 The plan emphasizes on performance monitoring, stakeholder collaboration, and modernization including managing emerging risks and threats. Saudi Arabia is targeting not only to manage its safety effectively but also to serve as a regional leader, contributing positively to global aviation safety.

5.4 The Assembly is invited to take note of the information provided in this paper