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Agenda Item 6: Seamless and Interoperable Air Navigation Services (ANS) that are Fit for the Future

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO STRENGTHENING GASP IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NAM/CAR REGION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2026–2028 requires practical, coordinated, and sustainable action at both national and regional levels. Recognizing the common implementation challenges faced by States in North America and the Caribbean (NAM/CAR) Region, the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues to promote collaborative initiatives to strengthen safety management and oversight, technical capacity, and regional cooperation.

This information paper presents ongoing regional initiatives that support GASP implementation, including enhancements to State Safety Programme (SSP) measurement, the update of the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP), development of National Aviation Safety Plans (NASPs), regulatory harmonization efforts, technical training initiatives, occurrence reporting improvements, accident investigation support, and collaborative safety risk mitigation activities through established regional mechanisms.

These initiatives demonstrate the strategic value of regional cooperation as a practical mechanism to optimize limited resources, strengthen institutional capabilities, promote harmonized implementation, and accelerate progress toward the effective implementation of ICAO safety priorities across the NAM/CAR Region.

Strategic Objectives:

- Every Flight is Safe and Secure
- No Country Left Behind

References:

- Doc 9734 — Safety Oversight Manual
- Annex 19 — Safety Management
- Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)

1. Introduction

1.1 The effective implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2026–2028 requires coordinated regional action, sustained State commitment, and practical implementation mechanisms that support both safety management and safety oversight capabilities. Recognizing the common implementation challenges faced by States in the NAM/CAR Region, the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues to promote collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening aviation safety performance through technical assistance, harmonized implementation strategies, capacity-building initiatives, and regional cooperation mechanisms.

1.2 This information paper presents current regional initiatives that contribute to GASP implementation and highlights practical collaborative approaches that support States in improving aviation safety performance in alignment with ICAO global objectives.

2. Background

2.1 The NAM/CAR Region continues to experience common challenges related to the maturity of State Safety Programmes (SSPs), the development and implementation of National Aviation Safety Plans (NASPs), effective safety oversight, occurrence reporting consistency, and the availability of specialized technical resources. These challenges are often compounded by limited institutional capacity and competing national priorities, making regional cooperation an essential enabler for sustainable progress.

2.2 To address these issues, the ICAO NACC Regional Office, in close coordination with States, Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs), technical working groups, and international partners, has advanced several collaborative initiatives designed to provide practical implementation support aligned with the objectives of the GASP 2026–2028.

3. Current Regional Collaborative Initiatives

SSP Progress Measurement Tool

3.1 During the fifth meeting of the SSP Working Group, participating States agreed to adopt a new SSP progress measurement methodology developed by Transport Canada in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of United States. This methodology includes a quantitative Excel-based assessment tool designed to provide a more objective and measurable evaluation of SSP implementation progress. Approximately 40% of the States in the region have already applied the tool, and the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues monitoring and supporting its implementation as part of the broader regional SSP enhancement effort.

Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP) Update

3.2 In support of regional strategic alignment with global aviation safety priorities, the ICAO NACC Regional Office has initiated the process for updating the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP) to ensure consistency with the GASP 2026–2028. This effort is being carried out through an ad hoc working group composed of six participating States, creating a collaborative platform for technical coordination, regional ownership, and harmonized strategic planning.

Just Culture Regulatory Framework Pilot

3.3 As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen safety culture across the region, the ICAO NACC Regional Office is promoting a pilot initiative aimed at developing a regulatory framework to support the implementation of Just Culture principles among Air Navigation Services (ANS) providers. Led by the regional Air Traffic Management (ATM) technical expert, this initiative seeks to facilitate a more effective integration of safety management principles within operational service environments and strengthen reporting and organizational learning practices.

Runway Safety Capacity Building

3.4 The Regional Office continues promoting operational safety enhancement through collaborative capacity-building initiatives. In this context, a regional Runway Safety Team event is scheduled to take place in Guatemala, with participation open to all States in the region. This initiative aims to strengthen runway safety performance while supporting technical competency development among Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) personnel through practical knowledge exchange and regional cooperation.

National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) Support

3.5 Recognizing the importance of national strategic safety planning, the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues providing technical assistance to States in the development, updating, and implementation of National Aviation Safety Plans. These efforts seek to ensure alignment between national safety priorities, regional strategic objectives, and the global direction established under the GASP framework.

Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Self-Assessment Support

3.6 The ICAO NACC Regional Office continues encouraging and supporting States in conducting USOAP self-assessments through the ICAO Online Framework (OLF). This activity contributes to strengthening institutional awareness of oversight performance, fostering accountability, and promoting a more proactive safety oversight culture across the region.

Regulatory Harmonization Initiative

3.7 The Regional Office remains actively engaged in the Central American regulatory harmonization initiative, supporting implementation of the regional roadmap developed in conjunction with ACSA RSOO and the European Union. This initiative represents a strategic mechanism for improving regulatory consistency, optimizing limited technical resources, and strengthening collective oversight capabilities among participating States through coordinated implementation approaches.

Model Training Programme

3.8 Through the Multi-Regional Civil Aviation Assistance Programme (MCAAP), the ICAO NACC Regional Office is currently developing a Model Training Programme intended to strengthen technical competency development in the region. The initial focus is on Airworthiness (AIR) and Aircraft Operations (OPS) technical areas, with progressive expansion to additional disciplines in future phases.

This initiative aims to provide a more structured, sustainable, and harmonized framework for competency development among civil aviation authorities.

Collaborative Oversight Mechanisms

3.9 Regional collaborative mechanisms continue to play a valuable role in supporting oversight enhancement initiatives. The National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCCMC) Working Group remains an active forum for technical coordination and information exchange, facilitating regional cooperation in support of safety oversight improvement efforts and implementation consistency.

Simulator Approval Guidance

3.10 Currently, the simulator guidance document previously developed is being updated to include recent regulatory changes prior being published. The drafting of an harmonized simulator approval guidance document has been developed through regional collaboration involving technical experts from ALTA, EASA, FAA, COCESNA and ICAO Headquarters and ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices specialists. This initiative is intended to promote greater consistency in technical evaluation processes and strengthen oversight capabilities related to simulator approvals.

Accident and Incident Investigation Support

3.11 In the area of accident and incident investigation, the ICAO NACC Regional Office continues supporting improvements in occurrence reporting quality and consistency through the promotion of quarterly data submissions, strengthened use of ADREP taxonomy, and development of validation guidance through MCAAP initiatives. Technical assistance continues to be provided under existing support programmes, while broader efforts remain focused on promoting regional cooperation mechanisms for investigation support and capacity strengthening.

RASG-PA Regional Safety Collaboration

3.12 The Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America (RASG-PA) continues to provide strategic regional value through collaborative safety analysis, risk identification, and mitigation initiatives. Through its expert groups and safety enhancement teams, RASG-PA supports States in addressing priority operational safety risks while strengthening safety intelligence, strategic coordination, and the implementation of regionally harmonized mitigation measures.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Collaborative implementation remains a fundamental enabler for effective GASP compliance across the NAM/CAR Region. The initiatives described in this paper demonstrate that sustainable progress is most effectively achieved through coordinated technical assistance, harmonized implementation approaches, shared expertise, and active engagement by States and regional partners. Continued participation in these collaborative regional initiatives will strengthen State safety management maturity, improve safety oversight effectiveness, enhance technical competencies, and contribute to a more consistent implementation of ICAO global aviation safety priorities.