



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ELEVENTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES (AFI-DGCA/11)

Cairo, Egypt 27 - 31 July 2026

Agenda Item 4: AFCAC Progress Report on Continental Initiatives since the last DGCA meeting

(Presented by AFCAC)

SUMMARY	
This Working Paper presents progress made by AFCAC and Member States in implementing the recommendations adopted at the last Meeting of AFCAC Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in May 2025. The paper highlights achievements across aviation safety, security, air transport liberalization, environmental protection, legal affairs, infrastructure development and institutional strengthening, while identifying areas requiring continued support and action by Member States.	
REFERENCE(S)	• Report of the AFCAC 3rd Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, May 2025). • AFCAC Secretariat Progress Presentation – AFI Aviation Week 2026.
Strategic Objective(s)	A- Safety B- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency C- Aviation Security and Facilitation D- Economic Development of Air Transport E- Environmental Protection

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The last AFI Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities adopted several recommendations intended to strengthen aviation safety, security, air transport development, environmental sustainability and institutional cooperation throughout the AFI Region.
- 1.2. Since the meeting, AFCAC has worked closely with ICAO, Member States, RSOOs, RAIOS, RECs, and development partners to implement these recommendations.
- 1.3. This paper provides an update on progress achieved and identifies priority actions requiring continued commitment by Member States.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. African Air Transport Convention and EXPO (Lomé, Togo)

- 2.1.1 The African Air Transport Convention and EXPO, held in Lomé, Togo, from 15 - 19 June 2026, marked a major milestone in advancing Africa's air transport agenda. The event brought together Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation, Directors General, regional and international organizations, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), industry leaders and development partners to strengthen collaboration towards the sustainable development of African aviation.
- 2.1.2 The Convention reaffirmed Member States' commitment to accelerating the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) through the adoption of the Lomé Ministerial Declaration and the associated Post-Lomé Implementation Matrix, providing a coordinated framework for advancing accessible, affordable, connected and sustainable air transport across Africa. The Convention also advanced AFCAC's continental aviation infrastructure agenda by promoting the Continental Aviation Infrastructure Project Pipelines and facilitating engagement between Member States and financing institutions to develop priority infrastructure projects into bankable investments. Follow-up implementation of the Convention outcomes is currently underway in collaboration with Member States, the African Union Commission, ICAO, Development Finance Institutions and other strategic partners.
- 2.1.3 A detailed report on the outcomes of the African Air Transport Convention and EXPO is attached to this Working Paper for the information of the Meeting.

2.2. Air Transport

- 2.2.1 **Expansion of intra-African connectivity:** African airlines launched over 124 new intra-African routes, including 22 Fifth Freedom routes.
- 2.2.2 **Intra-Africa Connectivity:** Grew from 14.5 per cent in 2018 to 23 per cent in 2025. This growth moves Africa closer to the aspirational 30 per cent target by 2027.
- 2.2.3 **Improved alignment of BASAs with continental frameworks:** Between 2022 and 2025, African states advanced 188 bilateral air services negotiations at ICAN events and the AFCAC Plenary, with 162, or about 86 per cent, aligning with YD/SAATM provisions. The share of ICAN outcomes aligned with YD/SAATM increased from 75 per cent in 2024 to around 81 per cent in 2025. Negotiations more frequently addressed restrictions on Fifth Freedom rights, capacity, frequency, airline designation, and tariffs.
- 2.2.4 **Demonstrated benefits of liberalization:** The results show that targeted implementation and ongoing political commitment can deliver tangible benefits for African airlines, passengers, tourism markets, trade corridors, and regional integration.

2.3. Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Services

- 2.3.1 AFCAC continued implementation of the AFI-CIS as the continent's flagship technical assistance programme, delivering targeted support to 5 Member States across a broad range of technical disciplines including legislation, organization, licensing, operations, airworthiness, aerodromes, air navigation services, accident investigation, safety management systems and ICAO audit preparedness. These interventions strengthened national oversight systems through institutional reforms, regulatory modernization, inspector training, certification support and implementation of corrective action plans. Key achievements included:

- Successful support towards the resolution of one Significant Safety Concern (SSC) and continued assistance to States implementing ICAO USOAP Corrective Action Plans.
- Strengthened inspector competencies through mission-based mentoring, on-the-job training and development of national technical guidance material.
- Continued implementation of the Revised Abuja Safety Targets (AST) through the continental online monitoring dashboard, with all AFCAC Member States now onboarded to the reporting platform.
- Africa's Effective Implementation (EI) increased to approximately 62.2%, reflecting continued progress towards the Abuja Safety Targets and ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan objectives.

2.4. Infrastructure Development

- 2.4.1 Significant progress was made in advancing AFCAC's continental aviation infrastructure development agenda aimed at transforming priority infrastructure needs into bankable investment opportunities. Major achievements include:
- Completion of the Continental Aviation Infrastructure Gap Analysis, identifying approximately 60 critical aviation infrastructure gaps across aerodromes, air navigation services and aircraft operational capabilities.
 - Development and endorsement by the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of five Continental Aviation Infrastructure Project Pipelines to guide Member States in preparing strategic investment projects.
 - Successful organization of the African Air Transport Convention and EXPO (Lomé, Togo), which brought together Governments, Development Finance Institutions and industry partners to match priority aviation projects with potential financiers.
 - Member States have been requested to identify and submit national priority infrastructure projects aligned with the approved Continental Project Pipelines.
 - Follow-up engagements are currently underway with financing institutions to initiate project preparation and feasibility studies aimed at developing bankable aviation infrastructure projects for financing and implementation.

2.5. Capacity Building Program

- 2.5.1 AFCAC continued strengthening institutional and human resource capacity across Africa through implementation of the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) and strategic partnerships with international aviation organizations. Key achievements include:
- Successful delivery of four continental training programmes during 2026 covering:
 - Resolution of Safety Issues (RSI) – hosted by Zambia – conducted by Singapore;
 - English Language Proficiency Preparatory (ELPP) – virtual – conducted by Malaysia;
 - ICAO CORSIA Verification – hosted by Ethiopia – funded through HRDF;
 - On-the-Job Training Instructor (OJTI) – hosted by Tanzania - funded through HRDF; and

- Aviation Crisis Management – hosted by Ghana - conducted by Singapore.
- More than 110 aviation professionals from over 30 African Member States benefited from specialized technical training during the reporting period.
- Training activities were delivered in partnership with Singapore Aviation Academy, Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), and ICAO through the HRDF, strengthening continental technical competencies in safety oversight and environmental protection.
- AFCAC continues to promote the utilization of African Centres of Excellence and regional expertise to build sustainable technical capacity across the continent.

2.6. Aviation Security & Facilitation

- 2.6.1 Continued implementation of the AFI Comprehensive Aviation Security and Facilitation (AFI-CES) Programme. Technical assistance and capacity-building in key areas, including cybersecurity, risk assessment, crisis management, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and other emerging security challenges were delivered to AFCAC Member States, including the Central African Republic, Zambia, Lesotho, Namibia, Sierra Leone, and Gabon, to strengthen compliance with ICAO Annex 17 and Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
- 2.6.2 Strengthened implementation of API/PNR and Public Key Directory (PKD). Capacity-building activities were undertaken in collaboration with AFCAC partners (IATA) to support the implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Record (PNR), and ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) systems across Member States.
- 2.6.3 Review of the Windhoek Declaration and Security Targets. The review process of the Windhoek Declaration and its associated Security Targets progressed to ensure continued relevance and alignment with emerging aviation security priorities and ICAO global initiatives.
- 2.6.4 Development of the Windhoek Security Targets Monitoring Dashboard. Progress continued on the development and enhancement of the online monitoring dashboard to support the implementation and tracking of the Windhoek Security Targets by AFCAC Member States.

2.7. Environmental Protection

- 2.7.1 **Adoption of the African Continental SAF/LCAF Strategy:** The Guidance on Policy Measures for Development, Production and Deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) and other Aviation Cleaner Energies in African States was adopted by States in March 2026.
- 2.7.2 **Development of Model Annex 16 Regulations:** The model Annex 16 Regulations was adopted by States in March 2026.
- 2.7.3 **Support for State Action Plans for CO₂ reduction:** In March 2026, AFCAC in collaboration with ICAO and CASSOA provided technical support to four States to review their State Action Plans. Expansion of African participation in CORSIA. As from 1 January 2026, twenty-seven African States are participating on a voluntary basis in CORSIA.

2.8. Legal Affairs and Member States Contributions

- 2.8.1 AFCAC continued to strengthen Africa's legal and institutional aviation framework through advocacy for key legal instruments, coordination of continental governance initiatives and engagement with Member States to enhance the Organization's financial sustainability. Key achievements include:
- Increased ratification of ICAO Protocols 50(a) and 56.
 - Continued advocacy for the revised AFCAC Constitution.
 - Implementation of the roadmap towards the Extraordinary 43rd ICAO Assembly.
- 2.8.2 Taking into consideration outstanding Member States contributions, AFCAC will -
- Continue engagement with Member States to improve the timely payment of assessed contributions and strengthen the financial sustainability of AFCAC.

2.9. Preparation for Major ICAO Events

- 2.9.1 AFCAC continued to coordinate Africa's preparations for major ICAO meetings to promote harmonized continental positions and strengthen Africa's influence in global civil aviation decision-making. Key activities included:
- Coordinated Africa's preparations for the ICAO Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), including regional consultations to consolidate common African positions on priority air transport issues such as SAATM implementation, consumer protection, aviation sustainability, economic regulation and the future development of international air transport.
 - Led preparations for the Extraordinary 43rd Session of the ICAO Assembly, facilitating consultations among African Member States to promote a coordinated continental approach to the election of the four additional ICAO Council Members following the entry into force of the amendments to Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention.
 - Strengthened collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), ICAO, AFCAC Bureau and Member States to ensure effective African participation and coordinated engagement in upcoming ICAO policy and governance meetings.
 - Continued advocacy for unified African positions to enhance the continent's contribution to global aviation policy development and decision-making.

3. STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAST AFCAC-DGCA

Recommendation	Progress
Continue support to AFCAC Secretariat	The AFCAC Bureau continued to provide strategic oversight and guidance to the Secretariat.
Strengthen technical assistance to Member States	At least 8 AFI-CIS technical assistance missions have been conducted, resulting in measurable safety improvements.

States to utilize AFCAC technical assistance	Increasing requests for support received from Member States.
Improve collaboration between AFCAC and ICAO	Joint planning and implementation activities significantly strengthened through annual joint meetings, capacity building through HRDF and technical assistance missions to States.
Improve reporting on air transport performance	Continental performance dashboards developed to strengthen data-driven monitoring, reporting and implementation of Air Transport programs.
Promote African technical cooperation	Enhanced African technical cooperation through increased deployment of regional experts, promoting sustainable capacity development and African-led solutions.
Prepare Africa for 42 nd ICAO Assembly	14 Working Papers were successfully presented and adopted at the 42 nd and all African candidate States were elected for the seats contested.
Ratify Protocols 50(a) and 56	On 12 June 2026, Ecuador deposited its instrument of ratification of the two Protocols amending Articles 50(a) and 56 of the Chicago Convention, becoming the 128th State to do so and thereby immediately bringing both Protocols into force. 33 of the 54 African Member States had ratified and deposited both Protocols, representing 61% of AFCAC Member States and nearly 26% of the 128 signatory States. This was a concrete testament to Africa's commitment to reforming global aviation governance.
Improve financial contributions	Some improvement realized, although arrears remain.
Implement previous AFI Week decisions	Previous AFI Week decisions have been operationalized through AFCAC's 2026 Work Programme, with implementation monitored through coordinated continental programmes and performance dashboards.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to

- a) Note the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the last AFCAC-DGCA Meeting.
- b) Encourage Member States to continue supporting AFCAC programmes through timely financial contributions and active participation.
- c) Acknowledge the ratification of ICAO Protocols 50(a) and 56, and accelerate the ratification of AFCAC legal instruments.
- d) Support implementation of the Revised Abuja Safety Targets, Windhoek Security Targets, SAATM implementation, environmental programmes and continental infrastructure initiatives.

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