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African Flight Procedure Programme

12th Meeting of the African Flight Procedure Programme Steering Committee

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 15 - 17 July 2026

Agenda Item 5: 2026-2027 Work Programme

Working Paper 5.1: Review of the 2026-2027 operating plan

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents the proposed AFPP Operating Plan covering the period from 1 August 2026 to 31 December 2027. To better align Programme implementation with annual planning, budgeting and reporting cycles, future operating plans will coincide with the calendar year. The proposed plan includes training activities, instructor capacity-building initiatives, flight procedure design assistance missions and participation in strategic regional meetings. Its implementation will strengthen sustainable State capabilities in flight procedure design, quality assurance, PANS-OPS implementation and airspace modernization while supporting the achievement of ICAO strategic goals in Africa.

Action by the meeting is indicated in section 3.

REFERENCES

- AR 37-11
- Project document for Phase IV

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The African Flight Procedure Programme (AFPP) was established by ICAO in 2014 to assist African States in developing and maintaining sustainable national capabilities in instrument flight procedure design, validation, quality assurance and oversight. Through regional cooperation, capacity building and technical assistance, the Programme supports the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), particularly those relating to Performance-Based Navigation (PBN), thereby contributing to the enhancement of aviation safety, air navigation capacity and operational efficiency throughout the AFI region.
- 1.2 The Programme delivers its objectives through an integrated work programme comprising training, technical assistance, development of technical expertise, support for quality assurance systems and participation in regional coordination mechanisms. The Steering Committee annually reviews and



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approves an operating plan to ensure that Programme activities remain responsive to Member States' priorities and aligned with ICAO strategic goals.

- 1.3 To improve planning, budget implementation and performance reporting, the Secretariat proposes that future AFPP operating plans coincide with the calendar year (January to December). Accordingly, the present operating plan constitutes a transitional plan covering the period from 1 August 2026 to 31 December 2027, after which annual operating plans will follow the calendar year.
- 1.4 In preparation for the implementation of the Programme, the Secretariat circulated the proposed AFPP Training Programme for 2026–2027 to all Member States through Letter T1/32-0323 dated 12 May 2026. Member States were invited to review the proposed activities prior to the Twelfth Steering Committee Meeting, identify additional capacity-building needs and indicate the activities they would be willing to host. So far, no response has been received from Member States regarding the proposed training programme.

2. DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The proposed Operating Plan reflects the Secretariat's objective of ensuring the continuity of AFPP capacity-building and technical assistance activities while enabling Member States to plan their participation and hosting arrangements sufficiently in advance. It also provides the Steering Committee with a consolidated framework for reviewing, prioritizing and approving the Programme's activities for the implementation period.
- 2.2 The proposed activities are grouped into four complementary pillars:
 - a) Training for AFPP Members;
 - b) Instructor Capacity Building;
 - c) Flight Procedure Design and Technical Assistance; and
 - d) Participation in Regional Meetings.
- 2.3 Each activity contributes directly to the Programme's overall objective of enabling Member States to independently develop, maintain and oversee safe, ICAO-compliant instrument flight procedures.
- 2.4 Details on each pillar are provided respectively A, B, C and D.



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3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Steering Committee is invited to:

- e) Review and amend as appropriate the proposed AFPP Operating Plan for the period 1 August 2026 to 31 December 2027;
- f) approve the Operating Plan; and
- g) encourage Member States to support and actively participate in the implementation of the Operating Plan, including by hosting Programme activities where feasible, thereby enabling the training of a greater number of national and regional experts.

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4. ATTACHMENT A: AFPP TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MEMBERS (2026–2027)

- 4.1 In accordance with the consultation undertaken by the Secretariat, Member States are encouraged to host the proposed training activities whenever feasible. Beyond facilitating the implementation of the Programme, hosting provides an opportunity to train a larger number of national experts while strengthening institutional cooperation and reducing the overall cost of delivering regional training activities. Under the AFPP cost-sharing arrangements, the host Administration provides appropriate training facilities and local catering, while the Programme covers the travel and daily subsistence allowance of the instructors.
- 4.2 The expected outcomes of each activity are summarized below:

#	Training	Period	Venue	Expected outcome/benefit
1	PBN Flight Procedure Design On-the-Job Training (4 weeks)	Oct. 26	Dakar	Consolidates competencies acquired during formal courses through practical design projects, enabling participants to independently design operational PBN procedures.
2	Quality Assurance for Instrument Flight Procedure Design (1 week)	Nov. 26		Strengthens national quality assurance systems, ensuring continued compliance with ICAO provisions and improving the safety and integrity of published procedures.
3	Initial Instrument Flight Procedure Design Course (4 weeks)	Mar. 27		Develops a new generation of qualified flight procedure designers, thereby increasing national self-sufficiency and reducing dependence on external expertise.
4	PBN Flight Procedure Design Course (4 weeks)	Jun. 27		Expands States' capability to design advanced PBN procedures, supporting wider implementation of Performance-Based Navigation across the AFI Region.
5	Airspace Design Workshop (1 week)	Oct. 27		Enhances States' ability to optimize terminal and en-route airspace structures, improving capacity, operational efficiency and environmental performance.



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#	Training	Period	Venue	Expected outcome/benefit
6	PANS-OPS Inspectors Training (2 weeks)	Nov. 27		Strengthens State oversight capabilities through the development of qualified inspectors responsible for approving and monitoring instrument flight procedures.
7	PBN Flight Procedure Design On-the-Job Training (4 weeks)	Oct. 27	Dakar	Reinforces practical competencies while producing operational procedures that may directly contribute to national implementation programmes
8	PANS-OPS safety assessment training (2 weeks)			Develops national competencies to plan, conduct and document PANS-OPS safety assessments, enabling States to independently support the safe implementation of instrument flight procedures and associated airspace changes.
9	Tailored Training (upon request)	-		Provides customized capacity-building solutions addressing specific operational, regulatory or technical needs identified by Member States.



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5. **ATTACHMENT B: INSTRUCTOR CAPACITY BUILDING**

5.1 Maintaining a highly competent pool of instructors is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of AFPP training activities and to integrate evolving ICAO provisions and technological developments into Programme delivery.

5.2 The proposed instructor development activities will provide the following benefits:

#	Activity	Period	Venue	Expected outcome/benefit
1	ArcGIS Training (2 weeks)		Dakar	Enhances participants' geospatial analysis and data management competencies, enabling the efficient production, maintenance and quality assurance of aeronautical information and flight procedure design data.
2	AIP-GIS Charting Software Training (3 weeks)	14-29 Sep.	Toulouse	Enhances AFPP capability to produce ICAO-compliant digital aeronautical charts and supports the transition towards AIM and digital data management.
3	AIP-GIS Charting Software OJT (2 weeks)		Dakar	Strengthens AFPP capability to produce and maintain ICAO-compliant digital aeronautical charts using AIP-GIS software, supporting the transition towards digital aeronautical information management and eAIP implementation.
4	Helicopter Flight Procedure Design and RNP AR Training (2 weeks)		Toulouse	Expands Programme expertise into advanced operational domains, enabling AFPP to support States requiring helicopter procedures and RNP AR implementation.



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6. ATTACHMENT C: FLIGHT PROCEDURE DESIGN ACTIVITIES

6.1 The Programme will continue providing direct technical assistance to Member States through procedure design projects and concept of operation trainings.

6.2 These activities are expected to deliver the following benefits:

- a) support States in implementing safe and operationally efficient instrument flight procedures;
- b) facilitate harmonized airspace solutions across neighbouring FIRs;
- c) accelerate the implementation of national PBN programmes;
- d) transfer knowledge to national technical personnel through participation in live projects; and
- e) contribute directly to the resolution of identified safety deficiencies.

6.3 The detailed list of planned technical assistance activities is provided below:

#	Activity	Site(s)	States	Benefits
1	Concept of operation training	Gaborone	Botswana	
2	Concept of operation training	Mbabane	Eswatini	
3	Concept of operation training	Conakry & Freetown	Guinea and Sierra Leone	
4	Flight procedure Design	Site 1	State 1	
5	Flight procedure Design	Site 2	State 2	
6	Flight procedure Design	Site 3	State 3	



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7. ATTACHMENT D: PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS

- 7.1 Participation in regional and international meetings remains essential for ensuring that AFPP activities remain aligned with ICAO global and regional priorities.
- 7.2 Participation in these meetings will:
- a) enable AFPP to contribute to the development of regional air navigation strategies;
 - b) promote coordination with ICAO bodies and partner organizations;
 - c) strengthen collaboration among Member States;
 - d) share lessons learned and best practices; and
 - e) identify emerging priorities requiring Programme support.
- 7.3 The list of planned meetings is provided below:
- a) Steering Committee of the African flight procedure Programme;
 - b) Flight Procedure Programmes' (FPPs) meetings;
 - c) Africa-Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG);
 - d) AFI Aviation week meeting.