



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Second Meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG2) of AASPG

Dakar, Senegal, from 29 June to 3 July 2026

Agenda Item 6: Implementation Challenges of the Sub-group

(Presented by the Secretariat.)

SUMMARY	
This Working Paper presents the challenges encountered by the SMO Sub-group in carrying out its activities.	
Actions by the Meeting are contained in paragraph 3.	
References	• Doc 10004, Global Aviation Safety Plan 2026-2028 • AFI Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AFI-RASP) • AASPG Procedural Handbook • AASPG/1 and SMO/SG1 Meeting Reports.
<i>Strategic Goals</i>	Every flight is safe and secure

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The mandate of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) is to support the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and carry out specific activities aimed to enable the AASPG to fulfil its safety management and safety oversight functions and responsibilities.
- 1.2 The work of the SMO/SG is carried out following a project management approach, as outlined in the AASPG Handbook (§2.9).
- 1.3 The first SMO/SG meeting, held virtually from 2 to 4 September 2025, resulted in the following proposed projects aimed at addressing key safety-related issues in the AFI region:
 - Strengthening of States Safety Oversight system;
 - Development and implementation of AFI -RASP and NASP;
 - Safety data collection and processing system;
 - State Safety Programme Implementation and documentation;
 - Establishment of Regional Pool of Investigators; and

- Development and Implementation of a mechanism for the Monitoring of SMO/SG-related conclusions and decisions.

1.4 The first meeting of the AASPG, held in Libreville, Gabon, from 3 to 7 November 2025, endorsed the project descriptions and the term of references of SMO/SG-related projects.

1.5 The project teams continue to implement their assigned activities under the leadership of the Project Team Coordinators (PTCs), with the support of the Secretariat; however, several challenges are being faced.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Mains challenges identified and recommendations are as follows:

- a) Variations in States' safety oversight maturity levels, combined with differing regulatory and organizational environments, and potential overlap with existing regional and partner initiatives, create challenges in accurately forecasting the level of assistance required for individual States.

Recommendations:

- Project Teams to conduct a needs assessment for each State prior to the development of Project documents and adopt a risk-based, phased implementation approach to tailor assistance to each State's level of maturity.
- Project Teams to leverage on the established coordination mechanism within stakeholders (ICAO, AFCAC, RSOO and RAIOS) to minimize /avoid overlap of duplication of efforts.

- b) Limited sharing of SSP documentation among States, insufficient information on the implementation status of SDCPS, as well as limited visibility on existing tools, platforms and initiatives, and the lack of harmonized approaches to safety data management lead to duplication of efforts, delays in drafting activities and challenges in the implementation of project activities.

Recommendations :

- ICAO Regional Offices should engage States through regional meetings, highlighting the benefits of sharing relevant safety oversight and SSP/SMS documentation, implementation tools and good practices in order to support the work of project teams.
- To support the development of generic regional documentation for use by States with limited capacity, States are invited to share with the Secretariat their national oversight and SSP/SMS documentation, procedures, guidance and implementation tools, on a voluntary basis, for use as reference inputs by the relevant Project Teams; and the Secretariat is invited to establish and maintain a structured reference library of such contributions in support of SMO/SG project deliverables.
- SDCPS Project Team, with the support of the ICAO Regional Offices and relevant stakeholders, should conduct a survey on the implementation status of SDCPS across States, use the results to promote harmonized safety data

management approaches and the development and dissemination of standardized SDCPS tools and guidance material.

- c) Coordination among multiple Project Teams to support the analysis of certain conclusions and decisions.

Recommendations:

- Schedule dedicated coordination meetings among the AAO, IIM and SMO Subgroup Bureaus to review and discuss identified conclusions and decisions requiring cross-project inputs.

- d) Limited participation and availability of some Project Team members, combined with internet connectivity constraints, affecting the organization of virtual meetings and the continuity of exchanges.

Recommendations :

- Project team coordinators should maintain effective communication and coordination mechanisms, ensure regular conduct of scheduled meetings and closely monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- States should ensure the availability and active participation of nominated subject matter experts in project activities and meetings to support the timely achievement of project objectives and deliverables.

- 2.2. The challenges and recommendations by projects are presented in the working papers WP3.1, WP3.2, WP3.3, WP3.4, WP3.5 and WP3.6.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this working paper; and
- b) Consider the recommendations provided in para 2.1.