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USOAP at the 42nd session of the ICAO General Assembly

USOAP will participate in A42 with working papers, a Skytalks session and more.

Editorial

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Programme Implementation Officer OSU/MAC

About the ICAO Assembly

The ICAO Assembly is the Organization's sovereign body. It meets at least once every three years and is convened by ICAO's governing body, the Council.

ICAO's 193 Member States and many international organizations are invited to the Assembly, which establishes the worldwide policy of the Organization for the upcoming triennium.

During Assembly Sessions, ICAO's complete work programme in the technical, economic, legal and technical cooperation fields is reviewed in detail. Assembly outcomes are then provided to the other bodies of ICAO and to its Member States in order to guide their continuing and future work, as prescribed in Article 49 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

In case of voting, each Member State is entitled to one vote on matters before the Assembly, and decisions at these Sessions are taken by a majority of the vote cast - except where otherwise provided for in the Convention.

USOAP Participation in A42

For the 42nd session of the ICAO Assembly, USOAP has submitted A42-WP/4 and A42-WP/5 working papers, which present the status of implementation of the Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) as well as plans to evolve the Programme in 2026-2027-2028 and an updated policy addressing data management in the USOAP online framework (OLF).

In addition, USOAP has reserved a slot on A42 Skytalks to present the triennial results and latest developments in USOAP CMA.

Last but not least, USOAP will present at the exhibition of the Assembly and the side events, such as the ICAO Innovation Fair from 21-22 September 2025.

Information and Updates

For more information and updates on the upcoming Assembly, please refer to the [official ICAO A42 page](#).



USOAP CMA Training Over the Past Triennium

The USOAP CMA CBT ranks among the top performing courses in the ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) portfolio and has already been completed by over 1,000 trainees.

By Mihail Peytchev, Programme Implementation Officer OSU/MAC

During the past triennium, USOAP focused on monitoring and improving the performance of its training programme and courses. Various aspects of training materials were reviewed and updated. The auditor training is pivotal for carrying out the Programme's mandate of activities; therefore, it was necessary to invest time and resources to ensure continued accuracy and effectiveness of the USOAP training.



USOAP CMA Computer-Based Training (CBT) (Phases I and II), which was completely revamped in the previous triennium, is the cornerstone of the USOAP CMA auditor training. Its performance was closely monitored and improved through regular content updates and adjustments. In addition to providing effective training to potential auditors, this self-study online course proved useful to State representatives, ICAO staff and other stakeholders seeking to improve their overall knowledge of the Programme's activities. The USOAP CMA CBT ranks among the top performing courses in the ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) portfolio and has already been completed by well over 1,000 trainees, including 83 auditor candidates over the triennium.

USOAP Auditor Preparation Course

The new instructor-led Auditor Preparation course that was launched at the end of 2021 aimed to improve auditor candidates' performance during their on-the-job training (OJT) and was delivered three times per year on average. This course proved its value in improving the success rate of OJT checkout missions by providing USOAP auditors-in-training with hands-on competencies (e.g. knowledge, skills, and attitudes) required to perform audits effectively. In addition to this, the course drew considerable interest from States seeking to train their non-auditor technical staff involved in supporting USOAP CMA activities. To date, 81 trainees from 35 States and seven international organizations have successfully completed the Auditor Preparation course.

USOAP CMA Workshop

USOAP CMA workshop material was updated to include new content from the fifth edition of Doc 9735 that was published in 2023. The update also included the addition of a module covering new developments on OLF and other USOAP CMA tools. Workshop material will once again be updated with the new edition of the 2024 Protocol Questions (PQs) and the introduction of a new State Safety Programme (SSP) audit area.

New Developments

In 2024, USOAP jointly with GAT and other ICAO Bureaus, developed a new training programme for young aviation professionals called "Essential Soft Skills for NextGen Aviation Professionals". It was based primarily on content from USOAP CBT Phase I and includes a self-study online course as well as a workshop. Preliminary feedback received from test-users was very positive (97% approval rate) and strong potential interest in this training was indicated.



ICAO USOAP
Continuous Monitoring Approach



Enhancing Aviation Safety and Improving Safety Oversight and Investigative Capabilities of ICAO Member States through Regional Cooperation

Review of regional cooperation and its role for assisting ICAO Member States in improving their safety oversight and investigative capabilities.

By Haaba Baldeh, Technical Officer RSCU/MAC

Regional Cooperation in Aviation

The concept of regional cooperation in aviation has been in place for years as a means to assist States in leveraging scarce financial and human resources in order to comply with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and ensure an effective oversight system. The establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs), Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs), Investigation Cooperative Mechanism (ICMs) and Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programmes (COSCAPs) has been instrumental in supporting States in fulfilling their safety oversight and investigative obligations, and helping to harmonize regulatory and legislative frameworks at a regional level.

The first RSOO (Interstate Aviation Committee - IAC, 1991) was established 34 years ago. Since then, the number of RSOOs and the number of States participating in an RSOO has grown significantly. Some RSOOs were established by only three States and have grown to nine Member States and counting (e.g. CASSOA in East Africa). Currently, over 120 States are members of an RSOO. Additionally, the functions conducted by RSOOs have grown from advisory or coordination to surveillance and even certification.

Regional Organizations Assisting ICAO Member States

There are several reasons why States may join or form an RSOO or a RAIO, the most common of which is for the assistance that RSOOs can provide to the States in increasing the effectiveness of their safety oversight. Results from USOAP CMA activities indicate that usually States fail to establish an effective safety oversight because of the lack of adequate financial and human resources as well as sufficient autonomy and authority for the regulation and oversight of civil aviation activities. In addition, States are often challenged to fulfil their safety oversight responsibilities due to insufficient number of qualified personnel or lack of financial resources for proper training of their technical personnel.

Regional cooperation and collaboration have proven to be an essential mechanism for States to share expertise, resources, and oversight and investigative capabilities. However, these organizations require clear guidance, structured support and strong frameworks in order to operate effectively and deliver the required assistance.

ICAO Regional Safety Cooperation Unit

ICAO Regional Safety Cooperation Unit within MAC/ANB, facilitates regional cooperation through:

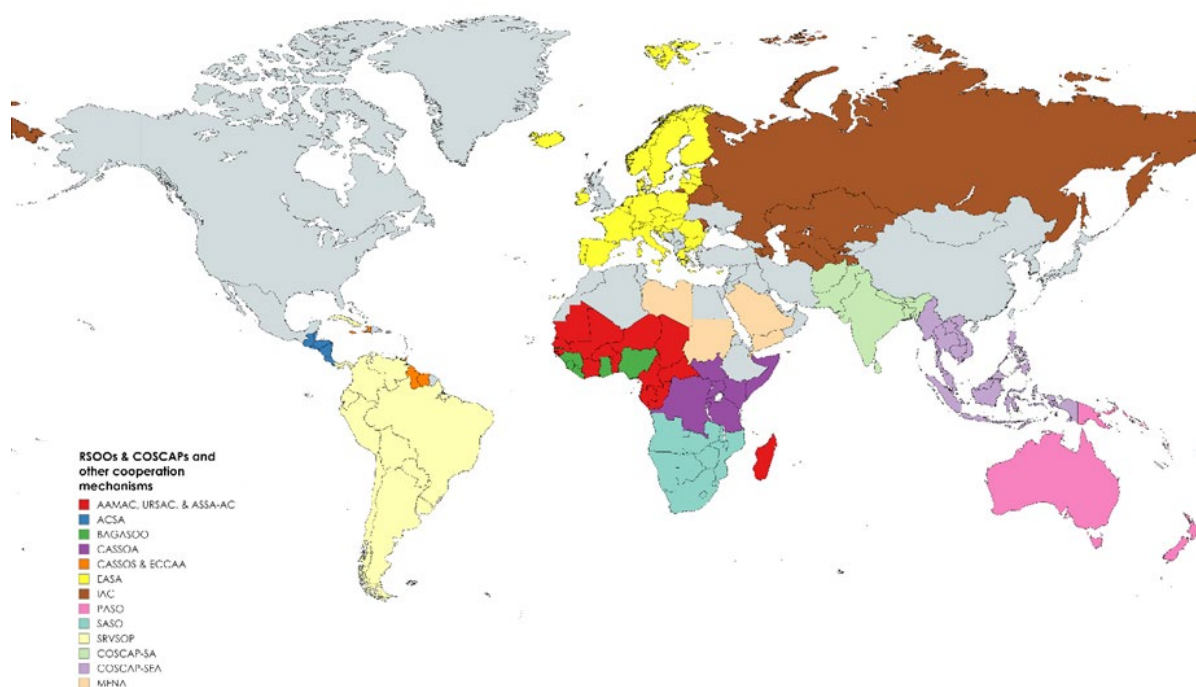
1. Cooperative Platforms (RSOO CP and RAIO CP) that bring together about 14 RSOOs and 7 RAIOs & Investigation Cooperation Mechanisms to strengthen them, share best practices and build partnerships.
2. Develop and maintain up to date guidance material for regional safety and investigative cooperation mechanisms.
3. Actively working on the Voluntary Assessment Programme of RSOOs and RAIOs (RSOO/RAIO Assessment Programme), which assesses their qualifications and capabilities using tools like those of the USOAP programme. CASSOA was assessed in October 2023.
4. Promote and increase awareness of RSOOs and RAIOs by organizing global safety and investigative conferences on Regional Cooperation as well as provide workshops.

Table 1: RSOOs and other Cooperative Safety Oversight Mechanisms

<i>RSOOs and other Cooperative safety oversight mechanisms</i>	<i>Member States</i>
<i>Agencia Centroamericana para la Seguridad Aeronáutica (ACSA)</i>	Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras
<i>Agence Communautaire de Supervision de la Sécurité et de la Sûreté de l'Aviation Civile (ACSAC) now operating as « Unité Régionale de Supervision de la Sécurité et de la Sûreté de l'Aviation Civile » (URSAC)</i>	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sénégal, Togo
<i>Agence de Supervision de la Sécurité Aérienne en Afrique Centrale (ASSA-AC)</i>	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Chad
<i>Autorités Africaines et Malgache de l'Aviation Civile/African and Malagasy Civil Aviation Authorities (AAMAC)</i>	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo
<i>Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO)</i>	Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone
<i>Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS)</i>	Barbados, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, The OECS: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines



<i>Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme – South Asia (COSCAP-SA)</i>	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
<i>Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme – Southeast Asia (COSCAP-SEA)</i>	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam
<i>East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Agency (CASSOA)</i>	Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
<i>European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)</i>	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
<i>Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC)</i>	Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
<i>SADC Aviation Safety Organization (SASO)</i>	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<i>Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO)</i>	Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Associate Members: Australia, Fiji and New Zealand.
<i>Regional Safety Oversight Cooperation System (SRVSOP)</i>	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
<i>Regional Safety Oversight Organization for the Middle East and North African States (MENA RSOO)</i>	Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE, Yemen

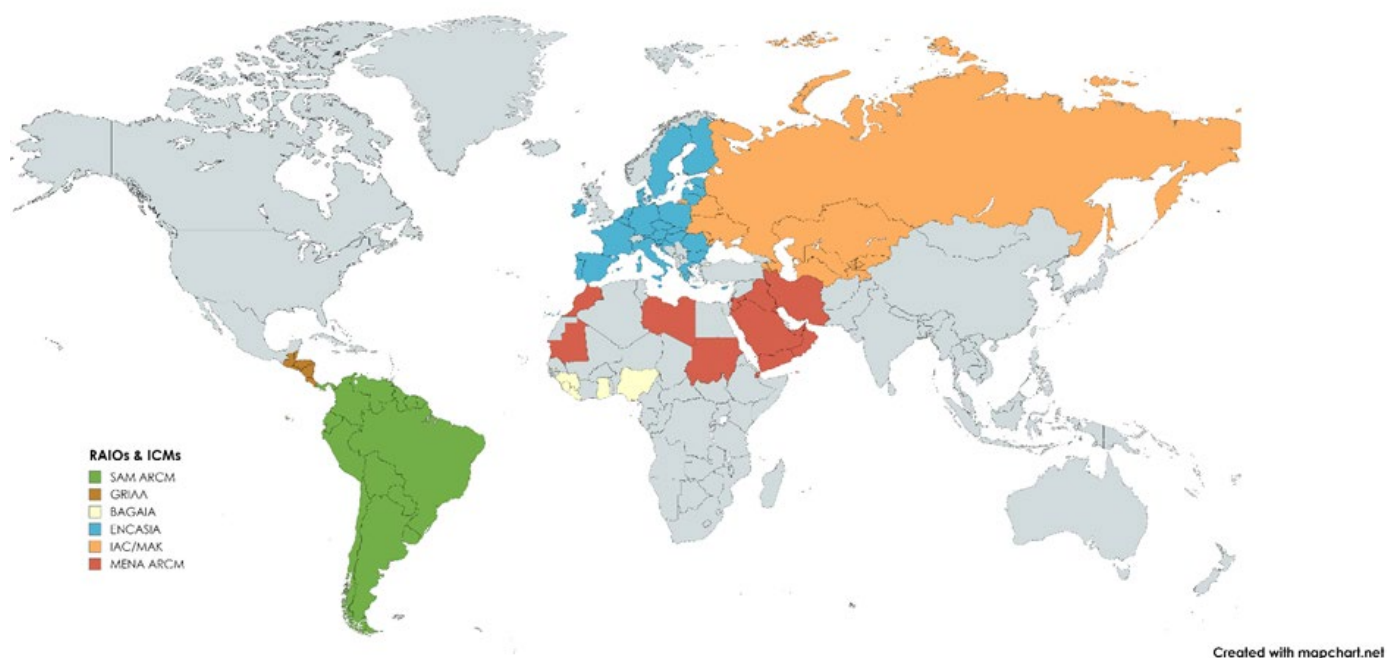


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Table 2: RAIOs and other Investigation Cooperative Mechanisms

RAIO or Cooperation Mechanism	Member States / resp. ICAO RO
<i>Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency (BAGAIA) - RAIO</i>	Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone
<i>Interstate Aviation Committee (IAK-IAC) - RAIO</i>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russian Federation
<i>Middle East and North African States (MENA) – AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (ARCM)</i>	Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE, Yemen
<i>South America (SAM) – AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (ARCM)</i>	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Suriname and Venezuela. SPECIAL OBSERVERS: Cuba, Dominican Republic, BEA (France), NTSB (USA) and the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System (CASSOS)
<i>European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities (ENCASIA)</i>	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden <i>Observers: Iceland, Norway, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999) and EASA</i>
<i>La Gerencia Regional de Investigación de Accidentes e Incidentes de Aviación (GRIAA)</i>	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua.





DEPARTURES:

No departures in the first half of 2025!

ARRIVALS:

A warm welcome to all new arrivals!

Mr. Mincheol Shin from the Republic of Korea joined the Oversight Support Unit (OSU) as Audit Management Officer in February 2025.

Ms. Rita Ntolo from Cameroon is another new addition to the Oversight Support Unit (OSU) team. Rita joined us as Data Expert (USOAP) Consultant in December 2024.

Mr. Kazem Seblani from Lebanon is the other new addition to the Oversight Support Unit (OSU). Kazem also joined us as Data Expert (USOAP) Consultant in December 2024.

Best of luck to all our new team members in their continued journey at ICAO!