

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE AFI PLANS AND HRDF

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 28 - 29 May 2025

Agenda Item 2: Proposed update of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa Programme for the period 2025-2030

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

In 2022, the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) evaluated the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan). One of the key outcomes of the evaluation report was that the AFI Plan is a relevant programme supporting States in improving their aviation safety oversight capacities.

In updating the AFI Plan Programme Document, the OIO evaluation Recommendations, as well as the support of the ICAO Council and the 41st Assembly of ICAO to the Plan were considered and serve as a guide for the planning framework for 2025-2030.

The continued implementation of the AFI Plan in an effective and systematic manner in all safety-related areas, and in full alignment with the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), has significantly contributed to the progress made by African States towards achieving the objectives of these global plans.

This paper presents a brief background, the progress made in the implementation of the AFI Plan and its associated Work Programme, and an updated planning framework for the coming six-year period from 2025 to 2030.

Action: *The Steering Committee is invited to:*

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) consider and endorse the proposed updated AFI Plan Programme Document to guide the implementation of activities during the planning period (2025-2030) presented as **Attachment A** to this Paper; and
- c) encourage States, international and regional organizations, financing institutions, and industry to continue supporting the programme.

<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	This working paper relates to ICAO's Strategic Objectives on Safety ; and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) was endorsed by the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly and established by the Secretary General of ICAO on 1 January 2008 to address civil aviation safety deficiencies in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) region. The programme has since been providing assistance to States with focus on the establishment and implementation of effective and sustainable safety oversight systems; resolution of identified safety deficiencies and fostering of aviation safety culture in Africa.

1.2. In 2009, the ICAO Council decided that the Programme activities should be integrated into the ICAO Regional Offices' regular work programme as of January 2010. Even though the activities are integrated to the Regional Offices' activities, the programme initiated by AFI Plan continues to function as a specific Africa-wide ICAO project since 2010.

1.3. The AFI Plan Programme was evaluated in 2015 and 2022 by the ICAO Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) with a view to providing an independent review of the programme's performance in accordance with the original and subsequent updates of the Programme Document. The evaluation reviewed the relevance, design, management and governance of the programme since its inception and made several recommendations to ensure its effective and sustained implementation.

1.4. One of the key recommendations called for the review and amendment of the AFI Plan Document to ensure that it remains relevant and in line with the changing dynamics subject to its continuation beyond the current cycle of the programme scheduled to end in December 2024. Accordingly, the programme document was reviewed and updated for the period 2025 to 2030 for consideration by the new joint AFI Plan, AFI SECFAL Plan and HRDF Steering Committee.

2. UPDATED AFI PLAN PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR 2025-2030

2.1. The programme continues to register gains towards the attainment of the GASP goals and targets including the improvement of Effective Implementation (EI) of the Critical Elements of States' safety oversight systems, resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs), establishment and strengthening of regional safety oversight and accident and incident investigation organizations (RSOOs/RAIOs); and capacity building through various training activities.

2.2. In addition to the traditional State support mechanism, the AFI Plan has adopted a project-based approach since 2016. Since then, projects developed by ICAO Regional Offices (WACAF and ESAF) have been presented to and approved by the AFI Plan Steering Committee (SC) and are currently being implemented in the areas of aerodrome certification, air navigation service providers (ANSPs) peer review, State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation, Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG), the Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO); and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM), so as to further assist States in achieving a sustainable aviation safety level. These projects with a revised scope and additional ones, will be presented to the SC overtime, aligned with the scope and timeframe of the programme, intended to achieve its broad and specific objectives.

2.3. Although progress in enhancing aviation safety in Africa has been achieved as a result of the work and actions undertaken through the AFI Plan and aviation partners, it is broadly recognized and agreed that additional efforts, resources and time are required, not only to achieve the targets set out in the Global Aviation Safety Plan, including resolution of SSCs and other safety deficiencies in the region, but also to retain this momentum thus, ensure sustainability.

2.4. In this context of sustainability and in light of ICAO's effort through the AFI Plan to improve aviation Safety in Africa, the ICAO Council presented a working paper (A41-WP/103) at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. The Paper presented the progress achieved under the AFI Plan and recommended its continuation beyond 2024. It emphasized the need to focus on all areas related safety, air navigation capacity and efficiency, including aviation infrastructure planning.

2.5. The AFI Plan Programme Document was therefore reviewed and updated for 2025-2030 period, considering the call for the continuation of the programme by the ICAO Council and the support expressed during of the 41st session of the ICAO assembly. In this context, the revised programme document considers:

- a) Strengthening cooperation and partnerships with all the stakeholders supporting States in the implementation activities;
- b) Assisting States in strengthening their safety oversight and safety management capacity;

- c) Strengthening regional safety oversight organizations (RSOOs) and regional aircraft accident investigation agencies (RAIOs) capabilities;
- d) Supporting States in long-term planning, especially with regards to aviation infrastructure development; and
- e) Improving States' implementation capabilities through targeted assistance and capacity building;
- f) etc.

2.6. Furthermore, the revised governance framework including the adequate implementation planning and monitoring will improve the effective and efficient implementation of the programme.

2.7. The original focus areas of the AFI Plan for providing assistance to States in establishing and implementing effective and sustainable safety oversight systems, addressing identified deficiencies and promoting an aviation safety culture in Africa, including the aviation infrastructure gap analysis and planning- remain relevant. These areas, along with emerging and current needs, are therefore included in the 2025-2030 updated Programme Document.

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