

ICAO Action

The USOAP was mandated under ICAO Assembly Resolution A35-6. The scope of the audits was to address all safety-related provisions in all safety-related ICAO Annexes and limited to audit States' oversight capability and not the industry such as air operators and other service providers. The six-year audit cycle commenced in January 2005 and ended in December 2010. During this audit cycle, 180 of 190 ICAO Member States were audited. The remaining Member States that did not receive an audit was mainly due to two reasons:

- 1) the United Nations (UN) uses a security level index to determine and guide UN agencies on the level of security and the precautions required to be taken by UN personnel when conducting UN missions. Unfortunately, during the six-year USOAP cycle, the UN security level in some States, including Afghanistan, was too high for ICAO to conduct an audit; and
- 2) USOAP also relies on experts from ICAO Member States trained as USOAP auditors to perform audits. Member States second experts on a short-term basis for the duration of the audit and their salary is paid for by their respective government. It is neither feasible nor advisable to conduct an audit in a State where the UN security level is high.

Cognizant that a USOAP audit cannot be performed at this time, ICAO has entered into technical cooperation projects with Afghanistan in order to provide assistance in the field of civil aviation as well as to perform assessment of its international carriers, with the goal of providing assistance and guidance to resolve their deficiencies.