



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty First Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/21) (Nairobi, Kenya, 9 – 11 October 2017)

Agenda Item 5: Regional Air Navigation Deficiencies

INDUSTRY INITIATIVES AND OTHER AIR NAVIGATION MATTERS - SEAMLESSNESS OF AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

(Presented by the IATA)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights industry support for the initiative(s) to implement a *Seamless African Sky* that drives enhancements in safety and efficiency of flight operations in a collaborative Decision Making approach coordinated by all stakeholders, through modernization of Air Traffic Management Systems and procedures, for the provision of Seamless, Interoperable and harmonized ATM. The aim of this working paper is to present IATA's position and users' support in regional strategies when developing systems and structures 'Towards a Unified AFI SKY'. The industry takes cognizance of the need to collaborate and synergize the various initiatives by SADC States, EAC States, ASECNA States, Roberts FIR States and COMESA States in order to harmonize their strategies so as to achieve unity of purpose. IATA would like to see all the States in Africa, included in developing a roadmap for the envisaged 'Unified AFI SKY' through the various regional economic blocks in order to establish a harmonized and seamless airspace that will support Africa Single Market and improve the economic and social welfare of its people.

REFERENCES:

- ICAO Global Air Traffic Management Operational Concept (Doc 9854)
- ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (Doc 9750)
- ICAO Manual on Collaborative Air Traffic Flow Management (Doc 9971)

Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): **A** – Safety, **B** – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, **E**- Environmental Protection

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aviation is one of the levers that support the socio- economic development of a country since aviation has been known to be a catalyst for economic growth. It is therefore imperative that States should make Aviation a national priority with clear budgetary provisions in order to support the development of aviation and the requisite infrastructure.

1.2 Africa passenger traffic is projected to have a positive growth in the next few decades. IATA economist project the growth to be at 4.5% p.a. with some States expected to grow at above 7.0%.

1.3 Therefore, the AFI region is in need to urgently progress strategies that will enhance the regional developments of aviation infrastructure that will enable States/ANSPs ability to effectively manage the airspace in order to cope with increased air traffic volume.

1.4 In particular, States need to implement initiatives to resolve CNS, ATM, SAR and MET infrastructural and operational deficiencies, the harmonization and interoperability of the same and; to take

advantage of the opportunities thereof to deliver the anticipated benefits for users and to support the growth of aviation in general.

1.5 Users are of the opinion that a Seamless, Unified and Harmonized Single African Sky is the solution and therefore, a key contributor to achieving regional integration that will be an enabler for smart economic growth for Africa.

1.6 Unified AFI Sky has the potential to provide an effective remedy to air transport capacity bottlenecks, fill gaps in the air traffic management systems, enable significant reduction of CO2 emissions, reduce the overall costs in air transport and above all increase Safety.

1.7 It is in this regard that IATA and users recognize the need to implement harmonized, collaborative and sustainable strategies which will deliver long term benefits that enhance safety and efficiency while integrating currently available infrastructure and future concepts in order to improve airspace capacity.

1.8 For some time now, users have worked in collaboration with States to develop an attainable regional coordinated vision that is alignment with policies of ICAO for the improvement Seamlessness of Air Traffic Management. In particular, airlines are concerned with the implementation and utilization of VHF, CPDLC/ADS-C, missing Flight Plans, AIDC, AMHS, AIS/AIM, ADS-B among others, which are all listed as priority Block modules of the ASBU implementation plan.

1.9 A comprehensive plan to resolve these issues based on the concept of regional integrations and collaboration, as opposed to airspace fragmentation, is imperative for AFI safety and efficiency.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 In order to ensure the implementation of a Seamless AFI Sky, it is necessary for all the Regional Building Blocks (e.g. SADC, EAC, Roberts FIR, COMESA and ASECNA) to develop a clear and agreed roadmap, in consultation with users, for the implementation of seamless, harmonized, interoperable Air Traffic Management systems and procedures with clear benefits to the aviation stakeholders.

2.2 The Roadmap or Master Plan will be key for the project deployment that will provide the basis for timely, coordinated and efficient implementation of future technologies and procedures, while taking advantage of existing ones and will address, among others;

- 1) Harmonization of standards and procedures and regulation,
- 2) Airspace capacity improvements,
- 3) Airspace management (airspace concept),
- 4) Air traffic (flow) management,
- 5) Free routing airspace/user preferred route airspace,
- 6) Functional airspace blocks,
- 7) Airport capacity (runway optimization) based on technology,
- 8) Safety enhancement tools and data exchange/sharing protocols,
- 9) Systems integration and optimization and,
- 10) Operational efficiency and environmental protection etc.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to take note of Users;

- a) Support for a collaborative approach '*Towards a Seamless AFI Sky*' and the need to coordinate the regional initiatives based on an agreed roadmap in order to achieve unity of purpose and synergy in delivering a harmonized ATM in Africa.
- b) Concerns on the continued fragmentation of airspace which goes contrary to the desired outcome of airspace consolidation '*Towards a Unified AFI Sky*'
- c) Proposal for establishment of *AFI Central Monitoring Agency* for performance monitoring of technical, safety and operational issues that will support *Seamless AFI Sky*.