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Agenda Item: 3.1B

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fifth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group (AAO/SG5), Virtual Meeting, 23 to 26 August 2022

Agenda Item 3.1 Achievements in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations

SOMALI AIRSPACE UPGRADE

(Presented by Somalia)

SUMMARY
This Paper aims to describe the process undertaken in the upgrade of the Somalia airspace in terms of both staff capacity building and infrastructure of the equipment. The Somali Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken a major investment programme to upgrade the Somalia airspace and implement Class A airspace above FL245 of the Mogadishu FIR. **Action by the meeting is in Paragraph 3 of this paper**
REFRENCE(S): SASCT Reports
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): A- Aviation Safety B- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Mogadishu FIR airspace upgrade commenced in 2012 when ICAO-TCB has started project SOM/14802 for the process of Somalia Airspace upgrade and relocation from Nairobi, Kenya to Mogadishu, Somalia.

1.2. The hand over process of the airspace and relocation from the ICAO to Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has been completed in July 2018.

2. DISCUSSION

2..1 Establishment of SASCT Team

2.1.1. The Somali Civil Aviation Authority was very open for the recommendations and suggestions of the ICAO, IATA and Airspace users during the commencement of the Airspace upgrade from Class G to Class A. After long discussions and deliberations with the stakeholders in various forums, it was decided that a special team be setup to support the SCAA in the implementation process.

2.1.2. Key stakeholders form the membership of the Somalia Airspace Special Coordination Team (SASCT). The purpose was to have technical support from all relevant stakeholders to ensure a safe and smooth transition to Class A and provision of Air Traffic Control Service in the Upper airspace.

2.1.3. The Somali Airspace Special Coordination Team composed of the following members:

a. Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA)
b. International Air Transport Association (IATA)
c. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
d. Neighboring FIRs (HKNA, HAAA, OYSC, HDAM, VABF AND FSSS)
e. Airline representatives

2.2. SASCT Recommendations based on ICAO SARPS

2.2.1 The SASCT made several recommendations to establish a number of timelines for the process of the airspace upgrade, these included:

a. The training of the staff,
b. The required infrastructures
c. Airspace procedure documents and required approvals by the SCAA Regulations department.
d. Coordination with neighbouring FIRs including updates to the Letters of Procedures(LOPs).

2.3. Trial Operations Process

2.3.1. SCAA has initiated first Trial Operations NOTAM on November 2021 for airspace upgrade, following the NOTAM, the stakeholders from ICAO and IATA requested to extend the upgrading for further consultation with the concerned partners. After completion of the above process, the SASCT team started simultaneous meeting to proceed the initiation of the Mogadishu FIR airspace Operational Trial.

2.3.2. The team was committed to work together with one objective which is the upgrade of the airspace in smooth and efficiently way.

2.3.3. The NOTAM A00132/21 has been published with effective on 1 February 2022 however following consultation with the SASCT , it was postponed and a new NOTAM published NOTAM A0002/22 with effective date 1 May 2022. This however was also deferred to 11 May 2022 and NOTAM A0070/22 published with effective date on 11st May 2022.

2.3.4. The Operational Trials officially commenced on 11 May 2022. The trial period is only for 18 hours daily.

2.4. ATM Training

2.4.1. Twenty Four (24) Area Control Officer Cadets completed their refresher training in September 2021. According to SCAA regulations, the on the job training program which was to be done during the trial period was planned to start in March 2022, however, with the different recommendations from SASCT it was amended to start on 11 May 2022.

2.4.2. SASCT recommended that the 24 controllers be divided up to allow for a faster more efficient OJT. The first batch of 8 controllers started their OJT on 11th May 2022 and was expected to complete training on 11 August 2022.

2.4.3. The On-the-Job-Training Instructors (OJTIs) report indicates that the controllers' performance is above average, this batch will complete OJT on 11th August 2022 with validation and rating.

2.4.4. When the controllers finish their validation, they will provide air control services from 1800UTC up to 0300UTC, the rest of the controllers will continue the operational trial of providing air traffic control service from 03:00 to 18:00 UTC with effect from 26 August 2022 up to 26 November 2022.

2.4.5. The remaining Controllers are expected to commence the OJT program on 10th December 2022 to 10 March 2023.

2.5. Communication facility Improvement

2.5.1 Mogadishu FIR used CPDLC, HF, ADS-C and VHF. The project included the extension of the VHF coverage. The Bosaso Extended VHF coverage is completed, operational and published for use. Because of the extended range of the Bosaso VHF coverage, the northern sector of the Mogadisahu FIR has improved in terms of the coordination and communication with the airspace.

2.6. Conclusion

2.6.1 The overall process of the airspace operational trial was successful in term of improved communications and service provision. It is expected that by November 26, 2022, the trials will be completed, reason being enough controllers will validated by then and full implementation of Class A airspace and the provision of air traffic control service effected in the Mogadishu FIR FL245 and above on a 24 hours basis.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a. Take note of the Information in this paper.

b. Take the progress made by Somalia in the implementation of the Provision of Air Traffic Control Service (Class A airspace) above FL245 of the Mogadishu FIR and deliberate on it as necessary.

c. Provide any recommendations to the SCAA that may enhance the safe implementation of the project.

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