



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 15: Audit Programmes - Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA)

**CONTINUOUS ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL SECURITY AUDIT PROGRAMME -
CONTINUOUS MONITORING APPROACH (USAP-CMA)**

(Presented by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) on behalf of 54 African States¹)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper highlights the importance of an effective global risk-based quality control oversight process, with particular emphasis on the need to increase resources (Team Leaders) to enhance the implementation of the Universal Security Audit Programme - Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA).

Effective oversight of civil aviation is a crucial pillar of the aviation security system, and adequate resources will ensure that risks are identified and adequately addressed.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) urge Member States to cooperate with ICAO and ensure that identified gaps are addressed and to report on progress in the implementation of priority actions, actions and tasks agreed under the Corrective Action Plan (CAP);
- b) request the ICAO Secretariat to implement a data transmission system and make adequate resources available to review evidence of the States' CAPs and provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of the Member State status of the implementation of aviation security measures; and
- c) instruct the ICAO Council to work on the modalities to decentralize the Team Leadership of ICAO USAP-CMA audits to respective ICAO Regional Offices and offer sufficient training to cover the existing manpower gaps.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective: Security and Facilitation
<i>Financial implications:</i>	The activities will be undertaken within the resources available in the 2022-2023 Regular Programme Budget and/or from extra budgetary contributions.

¹ Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

<i>References:</i>	ICAO Assembly Resolution – A40-11 Doc 9807 – <i>Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Manual</i> A40-WP/23 – Implementation of the ICAO Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) Audit Programmes A40-WP/32 – Report on the Review of the Scope and Methodology of the Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA)
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aviation security is very important in the growth and sustainability of the global aviation industry. Ensuring effective aviation security in civil aviation is one of the most important components of the Member States' regulatory process for air operations.

1.2 The main objective of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA) is to promote aviation security through continuous auditing and monitoring of Member States' security performance. Once deficiencies are identified through USAP-CMA, it is important that remedial action plans are developed by States and timeously implemented to ensure improvements (modifications) to national aviation security quality control systems.

1.3 One of the key objectives of the progression of the USAP to Continuous Monitoring Approach was to ensure that the auditing of aviation security is not a once off event but a continuous process of improving aviation security.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 For this objective to be achieved it is important that the process of implementing and monitoring of corrective action plans be undertaken in real time.

2.2 Whilst the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Secretariat Study Group on the Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach to improve the USAP-CMA over the past triennium are acknowledged, further improvements are still desirable, especially in automating the management of corrective action handling.

2.3 One of the steps already undertaken, which is to be appreciated, is the adoption of an encrypted filing system for secure data transmission of associated sensitive information subject to audit between Member States and ICAO.

2.4 Risk-based oversight is a key pillar in managing aviation security risks. Threats and risks must be analysed holistically, and mitigation measures be taken in the most appropriate domain. Therefore, fundamental analysis operational models and integrated corrective management systems are essential to improving civil aviation security.

2.5 The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa (AFI SECFAL Plan) has done tremendous work in assisting African States to improve their levels of effective implementation of security Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). However, due to capacity constraints, ICAO has not been able to verify these remarkable achievements through validation missions.

2.6 The recent AFI Aviation Week held in Abuja, Nigeria, recommended that the USAP-CMA for AFI States should be linked with the interventions of the AFI SECFAL Plan. This will ensure proper assessment of the effectiveness of the AFI SECFAL and encourage African States to do more in addressing their aviation security deficiencies.

2.7 It is therefore critical that ICAO should make a serious assessment of the Team Leader requirements to ensure that capable staff in the ICAO Regional Offices are allowed to lead the USAP-CMA to address the backlog of much needed audits.

3. CONCLUSION

Aviation security implementation status indicate that actions are needed to strengthen aviation security. Current challenges require that the issue of security remain among the highest priorities of States and the international community.

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