



**Agenda Item 2: Beginning of the implementation of national safety plans**

**FIRST ICAO MISSION TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL RUNWAY SAFETY TEAM (RUNWAY SAFETY GO-TEAM) IN THE SAM REGION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This information paper presents the results of the ICAO Runway Safety Go-Team in the SAM Region, conducted at the International Airport of Tocumen in Panama City, Panama, under the sponsorship of the CAA of Panama, with the support of the SRVSOP and the Runway Safety Partners: FAA and ACI-LAC, pursuant to the recommendations of the ICAO Global Runway Safety Action Plan.

**References:**

- ICAO Assembly Resolution A37-6
- Global Aviation Safety Plan – GASP
- SAM Safety Plan - SAMSP
- RSP Global Runway Safety Action Plan (GRSAP)
- ICAO Runway Safety Team Handbook Second Edition 2015
- USOAP CMA Protocol Questions 7.189 (ANS) & 8.205 (AGA)
- Draft amendment to the PANS Aerodromes (Doc 9981). State Letter AN 4/27-18/25
- RASG-EUR Safety Enhancement Initiative IE-REST/RSG/02

**ICAO strategic objectives:**

*A – Safety*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 ICAO and the international community have recognised runway safety as one of the main priorities worldwide. Assembly Resolution A37-6 urges States to take measures to improve runway safety, including the establishment of multidisciplinary runway safety programmes. Pursuant to this mandate, since the first ICAO Global Runway Safety Symposium held in Montreal, Canada, in May 2011, ICAO and the Runway Safety Programme (RSP) partners have been working together to minimise and mitigate the risks of runway incursions, runway excursions, and other runway safety events.

1.2 The ICAO Runway Safety Programme or RSP promotes the establishment of runway safety teams (RSTs) at the airports as an effective means to reduce runway-related accidents and incidents. The requirement for airports to establish an RST was one of the main results of the first Global Runway Safety Symposium held in Montreal, Canada, in May 2011. The establishment of effective RSTs has helped to significantly reduce runway safety risks worldwide since 2011, with more than 200 international airports in the world that have registered an RST with ICAO.

1.3 As part of the support to the implementation of RSTs, ICAO published an unedited version of its Runway Safety Handbook, which includes the methodology for a Runway Safety Go-Team support mission. An RS Go-Team is a voluntary multidisciplinary assistance visit to an airport by an *ad hoc* group of experts from organisations associated to ICAO and the RSP. The content of this guide has been included as a proposal of amendment to Doc 9981 PANS Aerodromes, for its incorporation in the regulations of member States.

1.4 In January 2017, the RSP partners established a *Runway Safety Action Plan working group* (RSAP-WG) to review RSP achievements, objectives and priorities, and to develop a runway safety action plan, which was presented at the Second Global Runway Safety Symposium held in Lima, Peru, on 20-22 November 2017.

1.5 The Global Runway Safety Action Plan contains the recommended actions for runway stakeholders, including ICAO, the runway safety programme partners, State civil aviation authorities, regional safety oversight organisations (RSOOs), regional aviation safety groups (RASGs), aircraft operators, aerodrome operators, air navigation service providers, and the airspace industry. The actions described in this document are aimed at reducing the global runway excursion and runway incursion accident rate.

## 2. Runway Safety Go-Team in Panama – MPTO

2.1 Through letter AAC-NOTA-2018-100, the civil aviation authority of Panama requested the support of the ICAO SAM Regional Office for the implementation of a runway safety team at its main centre, the international airport of Tocumen (ICAO: MPTO / IATA: PTY).

2.2 Following the methodology of the ICAO Runway Safety Handbook, the RS Go-Team was established with the participation of 2 regional officers of the ICAO SAM Regional Office, 2 FAA experts and 1 ACI-LAC expert.

2.3 The Go-Team focused on the establishment of an effective RST, making sure its members clearly understood what was to be done and how, based on their roles and responsibilities. The members participated actively in the activities carried out during the workshop and during the visit to the airside of the aerodrome to identify new hazards for their RS action plan. A total of 25 participants from the different stakeholders (airport operator, CAA, aircraft operator, pilots, air navigation service provider, ground handling agents) attended the event.

2.4 On Friday 26 October, the international airport of Tocumen held the first meeting of its Runway safety team, where stakeholders agreed on an administrative structure and the terms of reference to support their future work.

## 3. Lessons learned

3.1 Some of the lessons learned during this mission were:

- a. there is a possibility of obtaining guidance material/templates on different terms of reference (in Spanish), which can be tailored to each site, but following ICAO guidelines;
- b. there is a possibility of proposing information protection mechanisms and a non-punitive environment within the RST, especially in States that lack safety information protection regulations;

- c. there is a possibility of linking the work of the RST (considered as part of the SMS of the aerodrome operator, but which brings together the SMS of all the participants) with the State safety programme and other initiatives related to the RASGPA; and
- d. there is a possibility for regional groups, such as SRVSOP and RASGPA, to participate more actively in the implementation of RSTs, both locally as well as in other regions.

4. **Conclusion**

4.1 In conclusion, the purpose of this IP is to allow States, in addition to taking note of the information contained herein, to consider the RS Go-Teams as a multidisciplinary tool for better supporting States and the industry, engaging them in the actions suggested in the GRSAP and for promoting joint work in the SMS by the different stakeholders actively involved in safety activities at the aerodrome.

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