INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

First Meeting of the Africa - Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and implementation Group (AASPG/1)

Libreville, Gabon, from 3 to 7 November 2025

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

4.3 Outcomes of the meeting on establishment of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group and the first meeting of the Sub-Group (SMO/SG1)

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This Paper presents a summary of the outcomes of the meeting on the establishment of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) of the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and implementation Group (AASPG), and its first meeting.
The meeting on the establishment of the SMO/SG discussed the operationalization of the SMO/SG, recent developments concerning the GASP and the AFI-RASP as well as Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) identified in the region. The meeting further addressed the coordination of activities with the IIM and AAO Sub-Groups.
The first meeting of the SMO/SG endorsed six proposed projects and discussed the nomination of Project Team Coordinators (PTCs) as well as the future work programme of the SMO/SG.
Action by the meeting is **at Paragraph 3** of this Paper.
This working document relates to the ICAO Strategic Objective on **Safety**.

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The meeting on the establishment of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) of AASPG was held from 24 to 25 April 2025 at the Trademark Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. This was followed by the first meeting of the SMO/SG, which was conducted virtually from 2 to 4 September 2025. Both meetings were chaired by Mr. Lawrence Amukono, Chairperson of SMO/SG, with the support from the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices.

2   **DISCUSSION**

2.1   **Meeting on the establishment of the SMO/SG**

2.1.1   The meeting discussed seven Agenda Items as reflected in the report presented in Appendix 1 to this working paper.

2.1.2   The meeting was attended by 50 participants, representing 15 States from the AFI region, 8 regional and international organizations, as well as the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices. The ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices served as the Secretariat of the meeting. One draft Conclusions and three Decisions were formulated during the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Review of the Terms of Reference, composition, working methods and work programme of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG)

2.1.3   The meeting reviewed and endorsed the Terms of Reference, Composition, Working Methods, and Work Programme of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG), with the proposed deletion of item "f" to avoid duplication with item "d" under the section of the TOR on "Tasks of the Sub-Group." The following decision was agreed by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx : Terms of Reference (TOR), Composition, Working Methods and Work Programme of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG).				
Why:	*That, to avoid duplication item "d" and "f" of the tasks of the Sub-Group under the section of the TOR*			
What:	*The revised Terms of Reference, Composition, Working Methods, and Work Programme of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) in Appendix 2 is endorsed, with deletion of item "f" under the section of the TOR on "Tasks of the Sub-Group."*			
Who:	*Secretariat*			
When:	*7 November 2025*			
Implementation following up				
Follow-up required	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐	*Metrics*	**Amended TOR**	*Means to collect data*	**Secretariat Report to AASPG/1**

Agenda Item 3: Designation of members of the SMO/SG; and elections of Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson of the Sub-Group

2.1.4   The meeting designated volunteers for core membership to the Sub-Group; and elected a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from representatives of States present, to be responsible for the conduct of the business of the Sub-Group, in accordance with the relevant terms of reference as prescribed in the AASPG Procedural Handbook. The following decision was agreed by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Designation of members of the SMO/SG and elections of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Group.					
Why:	*That, to conduct the business of Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) of the AFI Aviation System Planning and implementation Group (AASPG),*				
What:	a) *Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Togo and Zambia are designated as core members of the SMO/SG.* b) *Mr. Lawrence Amukono from Kenya and Mr. Kone Klédjomoh Ousmane from Côte d'Ivoire are elected as Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the SMO Sub-Group, respectively.*				
Who:	a) *ICAO Secretariat;* b) *States*				
When:	*24 April 2025*				
Implementation following up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	Metric 1: Membership to the SMO/SG limited to 7 ESAF States; and 7 WACAF States. Metric 2: Elected officials to serve for a period not exceeding two consecutive meetings of the Sub-Group or two consecutive years, whichever comes later.	Means to collect data	1. ICAO Secretariat to monitor the tenure of office of the elected officials. 2. ICAO Secretariat Report to AASPG

Agenda Item 4: Establishment and Operationalization of the SMO sub-group

2.1.5   The meeting discussed and agreed on the following areas as proposed by the Secretariat for potential development of projects: strengthening of State safety oversight systems; development and implementation of Regional and National Aviation Safety Plans (AFI-RASP and NASPs); establishment of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS); Safety Management; Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG); and improved monitoring of SMO/SG-related conclusions and decisions. The meeting also

requested the Secretariat, in coordination with the members of the SMO/SG, to undertake a comprehensive review of the proposed areas with a view to developing corresponding project proposals, considering regional needs, priorities and the availability of resources. The following conclusion was drawn up by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Conclusion 1/xx: Establishment and Operationalization of the SMO Sub-Group - Project based approach				
Why:	*That, to support the SMO Sub-Group activities*			
What:	*a) States and Organizations to nominate qualified subject matter experts for participation in the Project Teams, ensuring that they meet the specific requirements of the project; and* *b) States to cooperate by releasing and sponsoring their nominated subject matter experts for participation in the implementation of the SMO/SG projects; and allocating relevant resources as may be considered necessary.*			
Who:	*a) ICAO Secretariat* *b) States*			
When:	*31 July 2025*			
Implementation following up				
Follow-up required	Yes☒ No ☐	Metrics	Project Teams established	Monitor the establishment of Project Teams	Secretariat Report to AASPG1

Agenda Item 5: Review of recent developments with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), AFI Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AFI-RASP), and Significant Safety Concerns in the region

Review of recent developments in the GASP and the AFI-RASP

2.1.6   The meeting was updated on the review of the GASP 2023-2025 Edition by the GASP Study Group (GASP-SG) to align it with evolving global safety trends for the upcoming 2026–2028 Edition. The GASP provides a framework in which regional and national aviation safety plans (RASPs and NASPs) are developed and implemented. Consistent with the GASP, each region and State should develop a RASP and NASP, respectively, containing its strategic direction for the management of aviation safety for a set period. Each plan should be developed in line with the GASP goals, targets and the global high-risk categories of occurrences (G-HRCs). The RASP and NASP emphasize the commitment of a region and States to aviation safety, respectively. With the GASP 2026-2028 Edition coming into effect and considering the fact that the GASP is a living document that is subject to periodic revisions (three-year cycle), the SMO/SG deems it appropriate to have the revision of the AFI-RASP 2023-2025 Edition and the development/revision of NASPs as a project area. In this regard, a Project Team should be established, with a mandate to develop the relevant

project document and support its implementation. The Project Team should also provide support to States for the development/revision of their NASPs in alignment with the AFI-RASP and GASP; and with their implementation efforts. The following decision was agreed by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Updates on the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AFI-RASP).					
Why:	*That, to align the AFI-RASP with the upcoming GASP 2026-2028 Edition*				
What:	*The Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) to establish a Project Team to be responsible for reviewing the AFI-RASP 2023-2025 Edition.*				
Who:	*SMO/SG*				
When:	*31 July 2025*				
Implementation follow-up					
Follow-up required	Yes ☒ No ☐	Metrics	Metric 1: SMO/SG Project Team for the Development/Update and implementation of AFI-RASP and NASPs established.	Means to collect data on the implementation of the conclusion /decision	Report to AASPG1

Other Safety initiatives

2.1.7 IATA presented the global and AFI region accident investigations reports over the past five years highlighting key performance trends and persistent challenges in publishing investigation reports within the timelines specified by Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention, emphasizing the need for timely investigations to enhance industry-wide learning and safety.

2.1.8 IATA also addressed concerns over the lack of centralized data on TCAS 7.1 implementation across the 48 States accredited to the ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices, despite ICAO requirement and rising TCAS advisories in the region.

2.1.9 Additionally, IATA highlighted progress in the Collaborative Aviation Safety Improvement Programme (CASIP) in Africa, involving 13 partner organizations and three active workstreams focused on operational safety, training and monitoring, and safety issues review.

2.1.10 In view of the above, the meeting made the following recommendations to States:

- Expedite the implementation of RASG-AFI/9 Conclusion 9/09 on Accident Investigation Reports;
- Effectively implement RASG-AFI/10 Conclusion 10/04 on ACAS II (Version 7.1); and
- Support the efforts of the Collaborative Aviation Safety Improvement Programme

(CASIP) in addressing key safety challenges in the following focus areas: Runway Safety; Aeronautical Information Quality; Communication Shortfalls; Safety Leadership and Safety Culture Development; Loss of Separation (TCAS-related); Ground Damage to Aircraft; Wildlife Hazard Management; Rescue and Firefighting Services; and Operations in environments with Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs).

Agenda Item 6: Activities to be coordinated with the IIM and AAO Sub-groups

2.1.8   The meeting emphasized the necessity for effective coordination between the Sub-Groups of the AASPG (IIM, AAO, SMO Sub-Groups). In this respect, the meeting endorsed a list of common areas addressing organizational and operational safety issues such as the timely implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs); the integration of new entrants into the aviation ecosystem; runway safety; and safety data collection and sharing.

2.2 First meeting of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG1)

2.2.1   The meeting discussed seven Agenda Items as reflected in the report presented in Appendix 3 to this working paper.

2.2.2   The meeting was well attended by 186 participants from States and regional organizations. Three (3) draft Conclusions and Decisions were formulated during the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Summary of the outcomes of the meeting on the establishment of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) of the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG)

2.2.3   The Secretariat presented a summary of the outcomes of the meeting on the establishment of the Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG) under the Africa–Indian Ocean Aviation System Planning and Implementation Group (AASPG). The presentation outlined key activities undertaken, including the nomination of core member States, the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the identification of potential project areas, and the conclusions and decisions adopted during the meeting. It also emphasized the importance of States nominating and releasing qualified subject matter experts to support project implementation, as well as the need for effective coordination among the AASPG sub-groups (IIM, AAO, and SMO).

Agenda Item 3: Identification of projects and development of ToRs

2.2.4   Participants primarily nominated by States were assigned to different groups to review and discuss the proposed project descriptions and develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for the projects in the following areas:

- Strengthening of States' Aviation Safety Oversight Systems;
- Development and implementation of Regional and National Aviation Safety Plans (AFI-RASP and NASPs);
- Establishment of Safety Data Collection and Processing Systems (SDCPS);
- Safety Management - State Safety Programme Implementation and documentation
- Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG); and
- Monitoring of SMO/SG-related conclusions and decisions.

2.2.5. Each group presented the outcomes of their discussions to the plenary, which subsequently endorsed them. The amended Project descriptions and ToRs are included in Appendix 4 to this working paper. The following decisions were agreed by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Review of proposed Projects Descriptions and Development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project Teams.					
Why:	*That, to provide the required support to the States within the AFI Region, in the relevant priority areas*				
What:	*The following proposed projects are endorsed:* 1) *Strengthening of States Safety Oversight system;* 2) *Development and implementation of AFI -RASP and NASP;* 3) *Safety data collection and processing system;* 4) *State Safety Programme Implementation and documentation;* 5) *Establishment of Regional Pool of Investigators; and* 6) *Development and Implementation of a mechanism for the Monitoring of SMO/SG-related conclusions and decisions.*				
Who:	a) Subject matter experts nominated by States and Organizations and ICAO Secretariat b) PRCC/1 Meeting c) AASPG/1 Meeting				
When:	a) 4 September 2025 b) 12 September 2025 c) 7 November 2025				
Implementation follow-up					
Follow-up required	Yes☒ No ☐	Metrics	Metric: Projects Descriptions and ToRs of Project Teams endorsed by PRCC; and	Means to collect data	Reports of the PRCC and AASPG meetings.

		Approved by AASPG		

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Review of proposed Projects descriptions and development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project Teams.				
Why:	*That, to capture broader perspectives of the activities to be undertaken by the Project Teams for the various projects identified by the SMO/SG, the Project Teams to:*			
What:	*Review and develop the related project documents for further consideration by the AASPG.*			
Who:	a) & b) Subject matter experts nominated by States and Organizations; c) ICAO Secretariat			
When:	4 September 2025			
Implementation follow-up				
Follow-up required	Yes☒ No ☐	Metrics	Metric: Projects Descriptions and ToRs of Project Teams endorsed by PRCC; and Approved by AASPG	Means to collect data	Reports of the PRCC and AASPG meetings.

Agenda Item 4: Nominations of Project Team Coordinators (PTC) for each project area identified

2.2.6   The meeting discussed the establishment of the Project Teams and the nomination of Project Team Coordinators to conduct the businesses of the Project Teams under the AASPG Safety Management and Oversight Sub-Group (SMO/SG). The following conclusion was agreed by the meeting:

Draft AASPG/1 Decision 1/xx: Establishment of the Project Teams, nomination of Project Team Coordinators.					
Why:	*That, to establish Project Teams for the SMO Sub-Group identified projects, the Secretariat to:*				
What:	*a) Expedite the review of the curriculum vitae (CVs) of the list of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) nominated by States and Organizations for the purpose of selecting suitable candidates, to be responsible for the development of project documents for the proposed projects; and support their implementation; and* *b) Facilitate the nomination of the Project Team Coordinators (PTC).*				
Who:	a) ICAO Secretariat b) States				
When:	14 Oct 2025				
Implementation follow-up					
Follow-up required	Yes☒ No ☐	Metrics	Metric: Project Teams established; and PTCs and APTCs nominated.	Monitor the establishment of Project Teams	Secretariat Report to AASPG1

Agenda Item 6: Future work programme of SMO/SG

2.2.7   The meeting discussed and endorsed the proposed future work programme of the SMO/SG, as outlined in Appendix 5 to this working paper. The programme includes key activities such as the finalization and submission of the project description to the PRCC, development of project documents, coordination with project teams as well as the AAO and IIM Sub-Groups, organization of the AFI-RASP validation workshop, and preparatory work for the upcoming SMO/SG2 meeting scheduled for mid-2026.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:
a) Take note of the information provided in this paper; and
b) Provide guidance as appropriate.