



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**The Twenty-First Meeting of the Regional Airspace Safety Monitoring  
Advisory Group (RASMAG/21)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 14-17 June 2016

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**Agenda Item 5: Airspace Safety Monitoring Activities/Requirements in the Asia/Pacific Region**

**UPDATING THE GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY PLAN**

(Presented by the United States)

**SUMMARY**

The United States would like to promote awareness of the U.S. objectives for the upcoming 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly (A39) by sharing applicable U.S. Working Papers with the Regional Airspace Safety Monitoring Advisory Group (RASMAG). The attached paper addresses future updates to the Global Aviation Safety Plan.

The United States encourages RASMAG member States to review the attached paper and consider supporting the actions proposed therein during the A39 discussions. RASMAG member States are further invited to share their input on the proposed content and recommendations contained in the attached paper, and to share their related A39 objectives.



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**WORKING PAPER**

**ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION**

**TECHNICAL COMMISSION**

**Agenda Item 34: Aviation safety and air navigation policy**

**UPDATING THE GLOBAL AVIATION SAFETY PLAN**

(Presented by the United States)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The United States supports the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and efforts to strengthen aviation safety through a high level policy framework for Member States and stakeholders to reference as they evolve their aviation safety organizations. Revisions to the current GASP attempts to integrate state safety oversight systems and evolving State Safety Programme and Safety Management efforts. The United States urges ICAO to maintain priority on reducing the global accident risk and to work with Member States and stakeholders to simplify future updates to the GASP, in order to provide better guidance on balancing the management of global safety priorities as States continue to improve their safety oversight. The updated GASP should be introduced during the annual Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) sessions in 2018 with adoption of a revised GASP to be completed at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly in September 2019.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to:

- a) Agree that participation in the development of the next revision to the GASP should include representation from regulators and industry from Member States that range in Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Effective Implementation (EI) scores, international operating complexities, and resources, as well as representatives from all RASGs.
- b) Agree that the updated GASP should be introduced during the annual RASG sessions in 2018 and adopted at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly in September 2019.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	It is expected the triennium program budget contains planned activity for ongoing GASP initiatives, however ICAO may need to consider additional resources for regional offices (as explained in step one of the GASP Roadmap for 2017-2019).
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doc 9734, Safety Oversight Manual, Part A and Appendix 1 to Annex 19, Safety Management</li> <li>• 2007 Global Aviation Safety Plan</li> <li>• 2017-2019 Global Aviation Safety Plan</li> <li>• HLSC/15-WP/6, Updating the 2014-2016 GASP, Presented by the ICAO Secretariat</li> </ul>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The United States supports the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and efforts to strengthen aviation safety through a high level policy framework for Member States and stakeholders to reference as they evolve their aviation safety organizations.

1.2 Recent revisions to the GASP have added complexity in the form of new objectives in an effort to align with those of the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan. The revised GASP also includes a focus on a States' oversight systems as a prerequisite for implementing a State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management System (SMS). The advent of a new Annex for safety management and requirements for an SSP understandably necessitates that the GASP incorporate objectives to help guide States towards effective implementation of the ICAO critical elements for basic oversight<sup>1</sup>, as a way to ensure that States are working to build effective oversight capabilities to maintain and sustain safety. However, Annex 19 for Safety Management is in the process of implementation among many States and each will implement these requirements at a different pace. These fairly new global policy objectives require realistic and individual timeframes for implementation for States and stakeholders, and the GASP needs to recognize the work well underway.

1.3 Additionally, prescriptive requirements to meet GASP targets should account for the varying levels of complexity stemming from differences in aviation traffic volume, capacity, etc. As a result, it is necessary to ensure that further updates to the GASP include closer coordination with Member States and stakeholders on achievable outcomes and expectations dependent on the unique elements of each region.

1.4 The United States strongly supports the desire for all Member States to implement effective oversight capabilities and adopt globally-recognized standards and best practices for the interest of sustaining improvements to safety. However, the United States urges ICAO to maintain priority on reducing the global accident risk.

1.5 In this regard, the United States proposes that the next update to the GASP establish an improved connection for accomplishing these two elements of effective oversight while performing safety management. The next edition of the GASP should take into account various options to meet safety oversight and safety management responsibilities in alignment with the complexity of each State's operating environment; this should include options for authorized delegations of authority. It is important that ICAO recognize the pressing need for allocating proper resources to regions and States that are identified as requiring additional support.

## 2. DISCUSSION

### Evolution of the GASP

2.1 The ICAO GASP was created in 1997 to guide and prioritize the technical work programme for ICAO and to provide a common frame of reference for Member States and stakeholders to coordinate and guide safety policies and initiatives to reduce the global accident risk to commercial aviation.<sup>2</sup> In 2007, ICAO set safety targets to reduce the number of fatal accidents and fatalities, as well as regional accident rates. It strived to have no ICAO region with an accident rate more than twice the worldwide rate by 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc 9734, Safety Oversight Manual, Part A and Appendix 1 to Annex 19, Safety Management

<sup>2</sup> 2007 Global Aviation Safety Plan

## **Global Safety Priorities**

2.2 Regions are still reporting that the high-risk accident categories are runway safety events, controlled flight into terrain (CFIT), and loss of control-in flight (LOC-I).<sup>3</sup> These identified risks continue to identify precursors consistent with Attachment C of Annex 13, List of examples of serious incidents, and as recognized by ICAO through regional safety reports. Work to develop safety enhancements targeted at these risk areas is underway in several regions. Regions are continuing to learn the importance of regional safety reporting for collection and analysis of data in order to handle safety improvements to the regional operating environment. Work remains to ensure regions evolve this philosophy in a more coordinated manner.

2.3 Better guidance to assist Member States and regions is required to balance priorities in safety enhancements and safety oversight systems without waiting to address safety risks effectively as discussed in Section 1.3.2 in the 2017–2019 GASP. One of the fundamental roles of the Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASG) is to foster a collaborative forum for government and industry to form safety partnerships to address safety risk areas by encouraging regional sharing of information in order to perform studies and analyses for safety enhancement development, and ultimate risk mitigation and monitoring<sup>4</sup>. The RASGs provide States and stakeholders the ability to leverage knowledge and resources, and build strong safety partnerships. Together, the RASGs could work towards greater harmonization of global safety advancements and the RASGs can help identify regional priorities.

## **The Current GASP**

2.4 The 38th Session of the Assembly endorsed the first revision to the GASP to provide a global strategic direction for safety, and resolved that the GASP would be kept current in close cooperation and coordination with all concerned stakeholders. ICAO has recently completed the task of updating the GASP for the 2017–2019 triennium. Since its release and in anticipation of the 2017–2019 GASP Roadmap, opportunities are identified where ICAO, Member States, and stakeholders can develop a strategy to help States obtain an effective oversight system, while maintaining focus on the reduction of risks to safety in real-time day-to-day operations.

2.5 As discussed at the Second High-Level Safety Conference in 2015, the 2017–2019 GASP objectives and targets will be amended with gradual, evolutionary updates rather than a significant rewrite.<sup>5</sup> These updates include the addition of a supporting roadmap designed to assist States and stakeholders in maintaining focus on the global safety priorities and in achieving the GASP safety objectives.

## **2017–2019 and the GASP Roadmap Group**

2.6 Following the Second High-Level Safety Conference, and in response to concerns raised on how to build effective oversight while performing basic safety management, ICAO convened a team of experts (hereinafter, the Roadmap Group) to assist in developing safety roadmaps as a guide to implementation of the 2014–2016 GASP (GASP Appendix A). The Roadmap Group consisted of a cross cut of representatives, but did not have the benefit of representatives from each of the RASGs, nor did it have representation from States with differing levels of aviation system complexities, such as size or volume of air traffic, airports or other aviation services. The United States proposes that updates and further refinements of the GASP

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<sup>3</sup> 2017-2019 GASP

<sup>4</sup> Provided that the information shared does not violate any governing policies around established safety programs, with any authority or entity. Additionally, that information is protected from disclosure outside the regional group, and not used for any purpose other than safety risk mitigation.

<sup>5</sup> HLSC/15-WP/6, Updating the 2014-2016 GASP, Presented by the ICAO Secretariat

include active consultation from a full representative group of Member States and stakeholders impacted by the GASP.

2.7 The United States recognizes that the Roadmap Group created recommendations for implementation of GASP objectives for effective oversight while incorporating elements to maintain efforts already underway in performing safety management of identified risks to current operating environments. This working group could be the basis for ICAO to further work on establishing a balance between building effective oversight capabilities for States and encouraging the continued path towards regional coordination in developing and implementing risk mitigation strategies to reduce the overall global risk to aviation accidents.

### 3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The United States supports an ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan that maintains a high-level policy framework for Member States and stakeholders to use in development of safety improvements to the aviation operating environment. The United States encourages ICAO to keep the GASP in a format that is easy for stakeholders to comprehend and follow, and that it takes into account individual States' and regions' unique characteristics and timeframes for implementation.

### 4. ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

4.1 The Assembly is invited to:

4.2 Agree that the 2020-2022 update to the GASP should emphasize a stronger relationship between building effective oversight among ICAO Member States and performing operational safety risk management.

4.3 Agree that development of the next edition of the GASP should include participation by regulators and industry from Member States that range in USOAP EI scores, international operating complexities, and resources, as well as representatives from all RASGs.

4.4 Agree that the updated GASP should be introduced during the annual RASG sessions in 2018 and adopted at the 40th session of the Assembly in September 2019.

4.5 The Assembly is also invited to recognize the additional resources and support ICAO regional offices will need to manage implementation of GASP objectives and continue coordination with other regional groups.

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