



COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA (AFI SECFAL PLAN)

SECOND AFI SECFAL PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Montreal, Canada, 27 November 2015)

Agenda Item 4: **Progress Report on the Planned High Level Ministerial Meeting on AFI SECFAL Plan**

(Presented by AFI SECFAL Plan Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents information on the progress made with regard to the planned High Level Ministerial Meeting recommended by the 1st AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee meeting, which was held on 18 May 2015 in Maputo, Mozambique.

Action by the meeting:

The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in the paper; and
- b) Provide further instructions and guidance to the Secretariat for the successful and timely implementation of its recommendation concerning the Ministerial Meeting on Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Passenger traffic in the African region is expected to grow by more than 4.8 per cent in 2015; this trend is expected to continue, in line with the steady economic growth forecasts for the continent.

1.2. Enhancement of aviation security and facilitation in Africa is required to cope with the growth through targeted activities in partnership with various stakeholders, such as States, sub-regional, regional and international organizations. These activities are mainly independent initiatives that focus on specific components of aviation security and facilitation. Currently a growing number of donor States and financial institutions are calling for a coordinated assistance effort that allows policy makers and the donor community to forge common strategic framework of identified priorities and goals under the ICAO umbrella. Although substantial results have been obtained, sustainability of the added benefits has frequently been questioned.

1.3. Analysis of ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) findings, reveals persistent and systemic deficiencies in the regulatory, oversight, and operational areas that result in unsatisfactory implementation of Standards in Annex 17 - *Security* and the security - related Standards in Annex 9 - *Facilitation* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) and risk mitigation. Deficiencies were noted in national legislation (primary law and operating regulations), governance

arrangements. Also observed were inadequate or inefficient infrastructure and services, insufficient funding mechanisms and lack of competent and qualified personnel.

1.4. Facilitation issues have persistently affected the efficiency and quality of air services in Africa. This is further degraded by insufficient development of National Air Transport Facilitation Programmes and establishment of National Air Transport Facilitation Committees.

1.5. The magnitude of the Aviation Security and facilitation challenges are compounded by the tenuous aviation security environment, conflict zones and aggressive presence of terrorist, insurgent and transnational criminal group activities in the continent especially in States with fragile compliance with ICAO Standards.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. As the global aviation system transcends national borders, the challenging Aviation and Facilitation situation in Africa has potential implications that can adversely impact regional and global economies. These calls for continental high-level concerted and focused efforts to combat the threat.

2.2. Over the years, various initiatives and declarations have been made purposely to enhance aviation security and facilitation. Key of these include, inter alia:

- ICAO, in cooperation with the African Union (AU) Commission and AFCAC, held a conference from 5 to 7 November 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the development of an African aviation security Roadmap;
- On 13 April 2010, in Abuja, Nigeria, the Ministers in charge of aviation security together with regional and international organizations adopted the Abuja Declaration on Civil Aviation Security in Africa in which they affirmed their commitment to preventing unlawful interference with civil aviation in all forms, with particular attention being placed on countering terrorist threats against civil aviation;
- Meeting of African Ministers of Transport held in Luanda, Angola from 21 to 25 November 2011 to deliberate on aviation security and implementation of the Abuja Declaration and Roadmap among other items;
- Seminar in Niamey, Niger, in August 2013 organised by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and supported by ICAO Western and Central African (WACAF) Office to discuss threat posed to civil aviation by man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS).

2.3. There continues to exist several obstacles and challenges in establishing aviation security and facilitation systems and infrastructures in the continent. Eradication of these concerns which vary from State to State would improve compliance with relevant provisions of Annex 9 and 17 Standards related to Security and facilitation and the implementation of the African Civil Aviation Policy. Notable obstacles and challenges have been identified as:

- a) lack of political commitment to prioritize aviation security and facilitation at the national level;
- b) inadequate enforcement powers allocated to the designated Appropriate Authority;
- c) difficulty in establishing a coordination authority for facilitation;
- d) inability to attract and retain AVSEC expertise,
- e) inadequate training and succession planning including duplication of capacity-building efforts;
- f) lack of appropriate aviation security and facilitation infrastructure;
- g) weak security culture;

h) poor national aviation security oversight systems to match the aviation activities;

2.4. In order to address the concerns mentioned above, the First meeting of AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee meeting held on 18 May 2015 in Maputo, Mozambique, recommended the convening of a High Level Ministerial meeting under the joint leadership of ICAO and the African Union (AU) Commission and in close collaboration with AFCAC.

2.5. The Steering Committee noted the critical need to obtain comprehensive political commitment for the successful implementation of the Plan through, adoption of a Declaration on SECFAL targets and an Action Plan. The declaration will subsequently be submitted to the AU Summit of Heads of States and Governments for endorsement thus obtaining the desired ultimate continental political commitment.

2.6. During its 205th Session, the ICAO Council, endorsed the Steering Committee's recommendation regarding the convening of Ministerial Level Meeting jointly with the AU Commission.

2.7. The matter of the Ministerial Meeting was further discussed at a meeting between the Secretary General of ICAO and the Chairperson of AU Commission held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 19 August 2015. It was agreed that the event be held within the framework of implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between ICAO and AUC signed in September 2010.

3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL MEETING

Proposed Agenda Items

3.1. The Ministerial Meeting will be held in two sessions, including an Experts Session from 5 to 7 April 2016, followed by a Ministerial Session on 8 April 2016. The proposed draft agenda for these two sessions are provided in **Appendix** to this paper.

Participation and venue

3.2. Participation of the meeting is to be drawn from and include:

1. African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation Security and Facilitation, Travel Documents and Border Control;
2. African Union Commission (AUC);
3. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
4. African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC);
5. Senior officials of Ministries and Agencies responsible for Civil Aviation Security, Facilitation and Border Control regulations;
6. Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
7. African Development Bank AfDB);
8. United Nations Agencies such as Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
9. Regional and International Financial Organizations;
10. Air Cargo Regulated Agents;
11. Tour Operators and Travel Agents;
12. Customs, Public Health and Law Enforcement Authorities; and
13. Interpol;
14. Development Partners;
15. Service Providers as shall be identified.

3.3. An offer from an AFI State to host the Ministerial Meeting is being considered.

Expected Results

3.4. The main outcomes of the conference are as follows:

- a) Obtaining a comprehensive political commitment for the successful implementation of the AFI SECFAL Plan, thus supporting a framework through which African States, donor states, organizations and industry coordinate their activities with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of aviation security and facilitation;
- b) Adoption of a Declaration, Targets and Action Plan for Aviation Security and Facilitation with the results aimed at protecting the African Civil Aviation from being vulnerable to unlawful interference, including terrorist acts; and
- c) The outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa will be submitted to the ICAO Council and the June/July 2016 AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government for endorsement.

Proposed Next Steps

3.5. The ICAO Secretariat has developed a Draft Concept Note for the Ministerial Meeting to be finalized with the African Union Commission and the African Civil Aviation Commission, and coordinate with them the necessary administrative arrangements for the organization of the meeting.

3.6. The Secretariat will also develop and coordinate with the Members of the Steering Committee draft material for the Declaration, the Action Plan and the targets to be proposed to the African Union and the African Civil Aviation Commission for submission to the Ministerial Meeting on Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1. The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in the paper; and
- b) Provide further instructions and guidance to the Secretariat for the successful and timely implementation of its recommendation concerning the Ministerial Meeting on Aviation Security and Facilitation in Africa.
