



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

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

NINTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(28 July 2020)

**Agenda Item 1: Report on the implementation of the Recommendations of the 7th
RASFALG-AFI meeting**

(Presented by the African Civil Aviation Commission)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides a report on the Seventh Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and the Indian Ocean Region (RASFALG-AFI) meeting and the recommendations made by the experts. The paper summarizes the status and analysis of response rate to the AFCAC follow-up State letter, the RASFALG-AFI activities and capacity building needs.

The Steering Committee is invited to consider the proposed actions, as presented in **Paragraph 10**.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Seventh Meeting of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and the Indian Ocean Region (RASFALG-AFI), hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Tunisia, was held in Tunis, from 29 to 31 October, 2019.

2. PARTICIPATION

2.1 The meeting was attended by eighty six (86) participants from twenty seven (27) African States, one ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC) (Tunisia) and eight (8) International/Regional Organizations, namely; AFRAA, ACI, CASSOA, ECAC, IATA, INTERPOL, ICAO and AFCAC.

3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-PRESIDENT

3.1 In accordance with the RASFALG-AFI terms of references, Tunisia and the Democratic Republic of Congo were elected as President and Vice President of the Group respectively, for a two year period from 2019 to 2020. Seychelles and Senegal were elected as First and Second Rapporteurs of the Meeting, respectively.

4. SCOPE OF THE MEETING

4.1 Fourteen (14) presentations were delivered, discussed and deliberated during at the meeting. Please refer to **Annex A** to this Working Paper.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE RASFALG-AFI, 2019

5.1 Having considered the status of the response rate to AFCAC State letters and examined some of the reasons for the low response rate, the RASFALG-AFI deliberated on actions aimed at increasing the response rate. The meeting requested AFCAC to re-issue the State letters and to explore ways to improve the responses by African States.

5.2 The RASFALG-AFI noted the Decisions and Recommendations of the 8th AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee and reiterated the need for African experts support to the implementation of the said Decisions & Recommendations. AFI States were commended for the support given to AFI SECFAL Plan activities and projects through sharing of resources (experts).

5.3 The RASFALG-AFI Group encouraged African States to put more efforts on the implementation of the ICAO TRIP Strategy, PKD, PNR and API and encouraged AFCAC, RASFALG-AFI and other partners to continue supporting the AFI SECFAL Plan Work Programme and its activities.

5.4 The meeting noted the collaboration of AFCAC and ACI in using designated Experts of AFI-CES in the ACI Airport Excellence Programme (ACI - APEX) programs on the Continent and urged States to benefit from the initiative to improve security at African airports.

5.5 AFCAC and ICAO were called upon to take advantage of High-Level Missions to sensitize State authorities on timely resolution of SSeCs in line with the Windhoek Targets and to establish a foundation for subsequent technical missions.

5.6 The meeting was called upon to work together to come up with strategies to solve the issues being faced in AFI region such as resolution of the 6 SSeC in two States in Africa. As such the general consensus was that there is a need to change and improve the modus operandi of the Group.

5.7 The Group recommended that AFCAC should develop a framework that will allow the experts to be better able to provide assistance and develop model documents that can be used by States. The meeting was informed that the ToR of the RASFALG- AFI had been revised and adopted by the AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee.

6. STATUS OF RESPONSE TO AFCAC STATE LETTERS

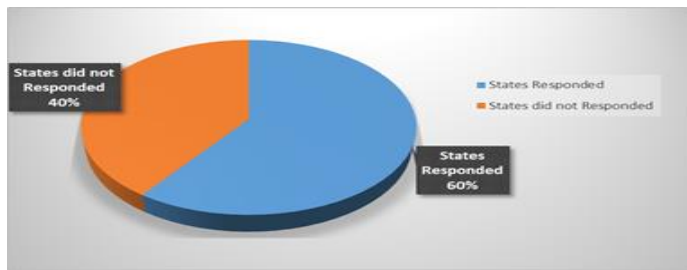
6.1 The AFCAC follow-up letter on the Recommendations of the Seventh RASFALG-AFI meeting was issued on March 17th, 2020. A series of reminders were set up to report on the rates of responses

to the follow-up letter and to encourage the remaining States to do same. AFCAC had issued Twenty-two (22) reminders since March 2020.

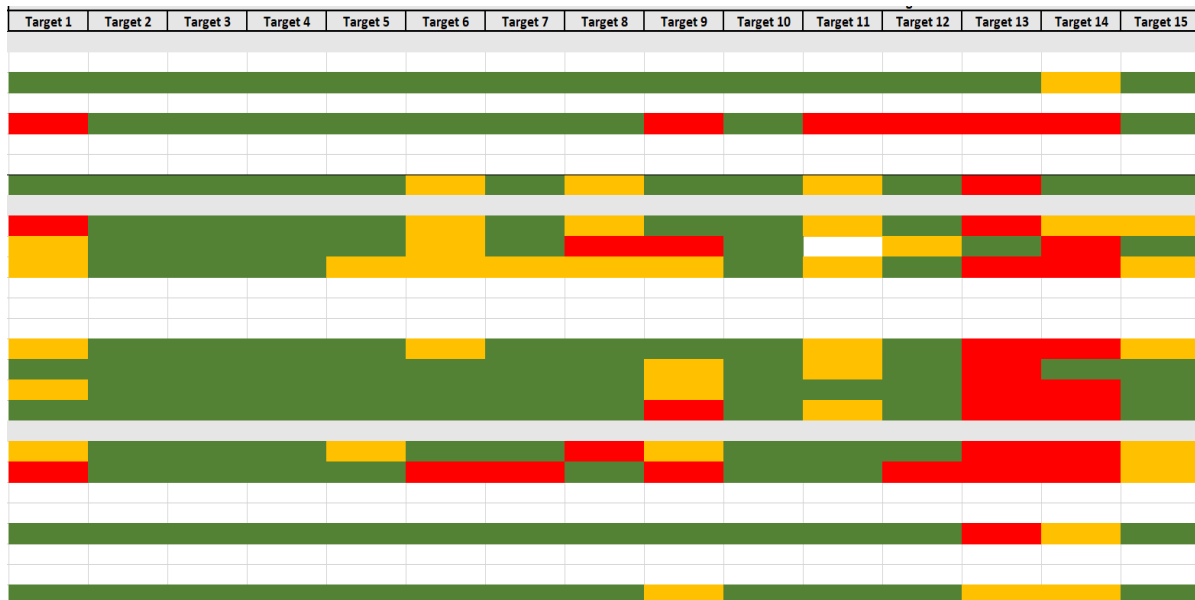
6.2 As a means to further inform and interact with Member States focal points, AFCAC used the direct contact (telephones and other Platforms of communications) to ensure that the importance of AFCAC State letters and need for prompt responses is well understood, and to promote the importance of feedbacks in order to ensure, amongst other data, that the contact details of State letter recipients are kept up-to-date.

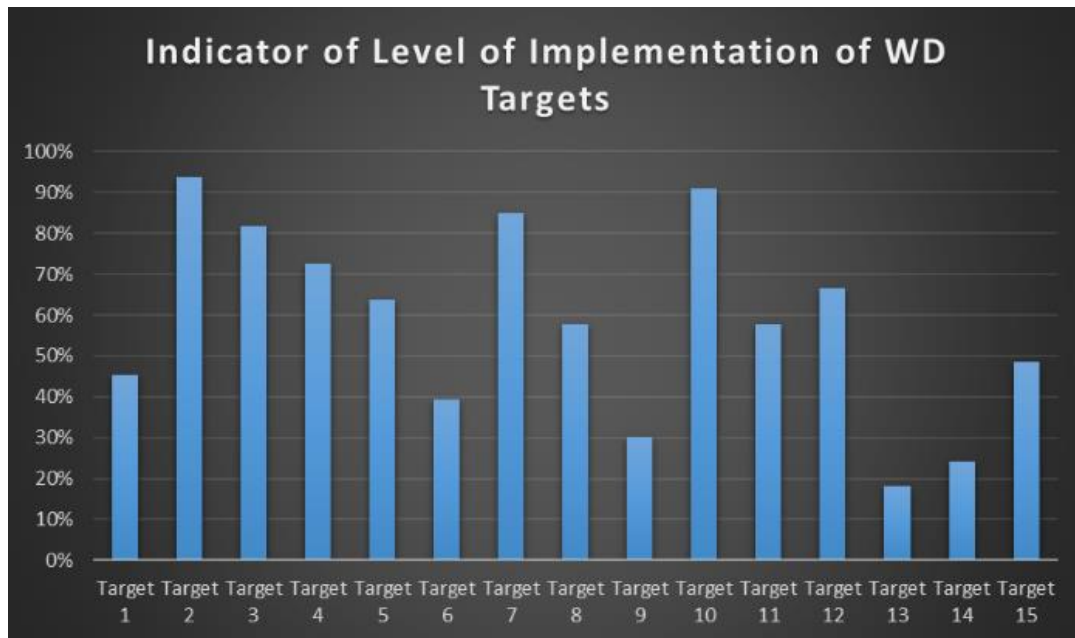
6.3 To further improve information flow, AFCAC has developed a new PoC platform through the new designation of focal points by member States. AFCAC will introduce new communication tools, including web-based solutions, as a means to improve the communication and interaction with State.

6.4 As a results of the above efforts, thirty-three (33) AFCAC Members States including **Senegal, The Gambia, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Zambia, Gabon, Botswana, Tunisia, Chad, Guinea, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Tanzania, Djibouti, Republic Democratic of the Congo, Egypt, Nigeria, Mauritania, Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, Cabo Verde, Rwanda, South Sudan, Comoros, Togo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Libya and South Africa** have replied to the follow-up letter. The graph below indicates the response rates.



6.5 **Furthermore,** AFCAC developed a platform dedicated to consolidation and analysis of State responses. The details of the analysis of the implementation of Windhoek targets are as indicated in the chart and graph here below:





7. ALIGNMENT OF THE WINDHOEK DECLARATION AND TARGETS AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFI-CES WORKING TOOLS

7.1 The AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee at its 8th meeting held in Kampala, Uganda in May 2019, decided that the Plan Secretariat in collaboration with AFCAC revise the Windhoek Targets and present the new targets to the AU for endorsement within a period of 18 months. AFCAC, as the monitoring body of the Windhoek Declaration and Targets, championed the implementation of the afore-mentioned Decisions and outcome is submitted to this SC through WP/05.

7.2 As part of the RASFALG-AFI Work Plan, AFCAC is developing Working Tools for the operationalization of the AFI-CES. The Working Tools will guide the employment of the Scheme and also served as an aviation security specific working tools that are easy to understand and follow in providing assistance to AFI States under the scheme of the AFI-CES.

8. ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

8.1 RASALG-AFI assistance activities are anchored and driven by the status of aviation security and facilitation in Africa and based analysis of the USAP-CMA Results to determine common deficiencies and needs of States.

8.2 In line with the outcomes of the annual ICAO ESAF-WACAF/AFCAC/ Regional Aviation Organizations and Partners Coordination Meeting held in Nairobi from 20 to 21 January 2020 and under the AFCAC and the African Development Bank (AfDB) project, AFI-CES technical assistance missions to were planned for **Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Lesotho and Liberia.**

8.3 To assist preparation for USAP-CMA in Comoros, Egypt, and Sudan joint AFI-SECFAL plan/ AFCAC assistance missions were planned under the AFI CES framework.

8.4 Due to challenges, travel restrictions and airport closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, AFCAC has postponed all planned missions.

9. CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

9.1 Based on the recommendations made by the RASFALG-AFI and in order to meet the evolving needs of States, AFCAC has created a secure platform concerning the capacity building needs of member States based on the State responses.

9.2 AFCAC recognizes that States have different aviation security needs, institutional frameworks, capacities and capabilities. Accordingly, a measure of flexibility must be retained to develop regional cooperation so as not to impose a “one size fits all” solution.

9.3 AFCAC will work with ICAO, Partners and other regional and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, to develop initiatives and joint capacity building activities to meet the needs of States.

10. ACTION BY THE MEETING

10.1 The Steering Committee is therefore, invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this Working Paper;
- b) note the Report of the 7th RASFALG-AFI meeting;
- c) urge African States to consider establishing focal points for coordination and follow-up to State letters;
- d) invite African States and stakeholders to provide necessary support to the RASFALG-AFI Group; and
- e) urge States, International organizations and Partners to support AFI-CES through financial and in kind contributions and joint capacity building activities based on the needs of African States.

ANNEX A

Fourteen (14) presentations were delivered, discussed and deliberated at the 7th RASFALG-AFI meeting under the following topics:

- a) Progress on the implementation of Recommendations of the 6th RASFALG-AFI Meeting;
- b) Decisions and Resolutions of the 8th AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee;
- c) AFI SECFAL Plan Projects and Proposed Programme 2019-2020;
- d) CASE II Project: Comprehensive Overview;
- e) African Airport Development Program: APEX Missions, Assistance and Challenges;
- f) Report on the Alignment of the AFI SECFAL Plan Work Program with GAsEP, Windhoek Declaration and Targets and AFI and MID Ministerial Roadmap on Security;
- g) Implementation of the Windhoek Declaration and Targets-Achievements, Challenges and Next Steps;
- h) Report on the outcomes of the ICAO AVSEC Symposium;
- i) Report on the AFCAC AVSEC Working Papers presented at the 40th ICAO Assembly;
- j) Status of Operationalization of the AFI CES;
- k) Steps for the Implementation of the API/PNR Systems (Botswana);
- l) State's Experience on PKD (Mali);
- m) INTERPOL's Commitment on Developing Interoperable Border Solution (PNR/API);
and
- n) Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Implementation in AFRICA.