



## REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION GROUP FOR AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION

(RASFG-AFI/2)

(MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 23-24 JUNE 2016)

### Background

The Second Meeting of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group for Africa and the Indian Ocean Region (RASFG-AFI) was held at the AU Conference Centre in Sipopo-Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 23 to 24 June, 2016. The meeting was convened according to the approved Terms of Reference of the RASFG-AFI.

### Opening Session

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Mr. Leandro Miko Angue, Director General of Civil Aviation, Equatorial Guinea in presence of Mr. Tefera Mekonnen, Director of Air Transport representing the Secretary General of AFCAC, Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, Deputy Regional Director ICAO WACAF and Mr. Joao Monteiro Chairman Board of the Directors of Cabo Verde Civil Aviation Authority in his capacity as Chairman of the RASFG-AFI.

In his welcome address, Mr. Mekonnen, conveyed the sincere appreciation of the AFCAC Secretary General to the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea for the warm welcome extended to the Secretariat of AFCAC and ICAO, and to the Participants of the meeting since their arrival in the city of Malabo and for accepting to host this 2<sup>nd</sup> RASFG-AFI Meeting. He reminded the participants on the first RASFG-AFI meeting held in Dakar in September 2015, together with the associated outcomes. He has also reminded participants on the request made to States on questionnaire and designation of experts to fulfil the tasks entrusted to AFCAC during the 1<sup>st</sup> RASFG-AFI meeting.

In his remarks, the Deputy Regional Director of ICAO WACAF enumerated the challenges the continent is facing currently in the twin areas of security and facilitation, adding that the Security and Facilitation (SECFAL) Plan is an opportunity to address those challenges. He therefore reiterated his call for collaboration between States, Industry, ICAO and AFCAC in implementing the Plan in a coordinated manner. He finally reminded participants that the outcomes of this 2<sup>nd</sup> RASFG-AFI meeting would be presented to the 3<sup>rd</sup> AFI SECFAL Steering Committee Meeting.

The Director General of Equatorial Guinea welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Minister of Civil Aviation who would have liked to be present to the current ceremony but was committed on another

equally important function. The Director General added that Equatorial Guinea being a member State of the AU as well as ICAO, is committed to achieving all ICAO SARPs and hope that the Malabo meeting will come out with good and memorable results. He called for States' commitment in dealing with Security and Facilitation issues, he thereafter conveyed the good will messages of the Equatorial Guinea Authorities for fruitful deliberations and formally declared the meeting open.

### **Participation**

Thirty three (33) participants from 14 States, AFCAC and ICAO attended the meeting.

The list is attached to this report.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The proposed Agenda was reviewed and adopted by the meeting. (See attachment A).

### **SESSION ONE - First Part**

Three presentations were made under Session one (Part one) as follows:

1. "Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> RASFG-AFI meeting" – AFCAC;

In that presentation, the meeting was briefed on the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the RASFG-AFI and its adoption by the first meeting, the designation of Experts for the RASFG-AFI together with the five focus areas.

2. "2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee of SECFAL Meeting Report"-ICAO;

Under this point, participants were informed on the approval of the RASFG-AFI TORs and the work programme for 2016 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting together with all the recommendations and decisions made in the areas of Aviation Security, Facilitation, Training and Cooperation.

3. "High Level Ministerial Conference Meeting" – ICAO;

The meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security and Facilitation held in Windhoek, Namibia from 4 to 7 April 2016. Specifically, the Ministerial Conference adopted a Declaration on aviation security and facilitation in Africa, along with associated targets which was brought to the attention the participants.

### **Discussions:**

A Session of discussion on the above three items were opened, during which participants have shown interest and express concern on the following:

- Status of the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> RASFG-AFI meeting: the report was formally adopted;



- The greater number of non-machine readable passports in circulation in the AFI Region: for ease of reference, the answer to ICAO questionnaire received from States in that matter, has revealed that 2,601,000 non-machine readable passports are still in circulation in six (6) AFI States;
- The need to consider release of sensitive security information without compromising security; AFCAC reminded participants of the African common position made during the 38<sup>th</sup> ICAO Assembly and Working Paper presented to 27<sup>th</sup> AVSEC Panel (March 2016) developed in consultation with member States

## **SESSION ONE – Second Part**

AFCAC made two presentations under Part 2 of the first Session as follows:

### **1. “Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI”.**

AFCAC recalled participants on the Objectives of Designation of Experts by States for the purpose of providing support in the identification of security and facilitation issues, to deliver technical inputs and recommendations for the resolution of deficiencies to the Steering Committee of SECFAL Plan and to provide Assistance to States for resolving operational deficiencies and increase effective implementation of States’ security oversight system.

### **2. The “Questionnaire of RASFG-AFI Work Programme”.**

A questionnaire was developed and sent to States for the purpose of identifying areas of need in aviation security and facilitation. The expected answers from States, would help the RASFG-AFI and AFI-SECFAL Steering Committee to come up with a plan of assistance activities to be conducted.

During the presentation AFCAC raised the concern of low level of response received from States regarding the designation of Experts and the questionnaire.

### **Discussions:**

During the discussions it was suggested to establish a 6<sup>th</sup> Focus Area under the RASFG-AFI and its dedicated Group, dealing with aviation security and facilitation training. Such a group could be most beneficial in elaborating an assistance strategy in the field of training for instance, sharing best practices, sharing instructors, course developers and jointly developing and organizing training courses and workshops using the Aviation Security Training Centres.

Concern was raised on the criteria of validation by AFCAC of the designee’s qualifications. AFCAC presented the meeting with the form circulated to States and requested participants to review it and come up with suggestions for improvement. Furthermore, AFCAC assured participants that verification and validation of information will be made in collaboration with States and ICAO. AFCAC was encouraged to intensify follow up with States for the purpose of increasing the level of response to the State letter relating to the “Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI” as well as to the “Questionnaire”.

## SESSION TWO

Two presentations were made under this session respectively by AFCAC and ICAO:

### 1. ECAC CASE Project on Aviation Security:

The meeting was informed on the CASE Project, with details on its objective, activities (national and regional), and the resources. Participants understood that the CASE project is a good example of cooperation between ECAC and AFCAC. Member States were encouraged to take part in the CASE Project as Partner States. The meeting was also informed on the upcoming workshop to be jointly organized by ECAC and AFCAC in Dakar in September 2016 in the framework of the CASE project.

2. ICAO made a presentation on its needs analysis study carried out related to AVSEC and FAL training. 53 out of the 54 AFI States actively participated to this exercise which led to a series of recommendations that will be discussed during the 3rd AFI SECFAL Plan SC meeting. ICAO underscored the need for closer (sub) regional cooperation in the field of training and the use of e-Learning and blended learning, an approach which was also supported in the Windhoek Declaration.

### Discussions:

Following discussions under this Session, States appreciated the benefit and opportunity that can be gained out of the CASE project and were urged to identify their needs and priorities and share it with the Steering Group of the project through AFCAC.

A proposal was made to consider use of African experts by the CASE project for the delivery of workshops and assistance missions to Partner States.

### Recommendations:

The second RASFG- AFI Meeting made the following Recommendations:

1. AFCAC to initiate coordination with the 6 African States still using non-machine readable passports to speed up the process of compliance.
2. AFCAC and ICAO Secretariats to specifically follow-up with the remaining 4 States yet to respond the ICAO State Letter EC6/3-12/70 dated 31 December 2012 relating to non-machine readable passports.
3. RASFG-AFI yearly work plans to be aligned with the SECFAL targets adopted by the Windhoek Ministerial Declaration. (April 2016)
4. A 6<sup>th</sup> Focus Area and its dedicated Group should be established under the RASFG-AFI, to deal with aviation security and facilitation training.
5. AFCAC to intensify more follow up with States for the purpose of increasing the level of response to State letters relating to the «Designation of Experts of the RASFG-AFI» as well as to the Questionnaire. AFCAC to request States to designate a focal person within Member States for this and or similar matters.



6. AFCAC to propose to the CASE project Steering Group to consider use of African experts by the CASE project for the delivery of workshops and Assistance missions.

7. AFCAC in collaboration with ICAO to review instructions of the forms relating to designation of experts for a better understanding by States.

8. SECFAL Plan SC to consider the establishment of a Pilot Project with regard to blended learning and/or e-learning.

9. ICAO to consider the development of Training Packages on Facilitation.

10. The Secretariat to coordinate and communicate to members, dates and venue of the next RASFG -AFI meeting.

## CLOSING

The closing ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RASFG –AFI meeting was chaired by the Director General Civil Aviation Authority, of Equatorial Guinea who thanked all the participants and acknowledged the recommendations made by the meeting. He encouraged the RASFG-AFI Secretariat to follow up on the recommendations made by the meeting and declared it officially closed.

Done at Malabo, 24 June 2016.

  
The Chairman RASFG-AFI

---