MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, 4-8 April 2016

OVERVIEW OF AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA

(Presented by AU Commission)

SUMMARY
This Paper presents the status of activities implemented by the AU Commission on Aviation Security in Africa under the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.
ACTION REQUIRED: Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.1
REFERENCE(S): i. Yamoussoukro Decision ii. AU Decision EX.CL/Dec.682 (XX) iii. AU Decision EX.CL/Dec.826(XXV) iv. EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership v. Reports of meetings of the steering committee of the project on support to air transport sector and satellite service applications in Africa

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   Under the EU-Africa common strategy adopted in 2005 and the joint EU-Africa Partnership established in Lisbon in December 2007, a project on Support to the Air Transport Sub Sector and Satellite Service Applications in Africa was developed. It has components on aviation safety, aviation security and satellite based air navigation systems. The project is financed by 9 million Euros provided by the EU under the 10th EDF in the framework of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership.

1.2   Secretariat of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is the Executing Agency of the project and co-chair the Steering Committee which meets in Brussels, Belgium, two times per year.

1.3   The project is supporting full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of the single African air transport market under the AU Agenda 2063 as aviation safety and security and sustainability of air navigation services are concerned.

1.4   The Steering Committee of the project is composed of experts of the ACP Secretariat, AU Commission, EU, RECs and AFCAC. The Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee provide the possibility of inviting experts of organisations like ICAO, ASECNA and AFRAA to participate as resource persons and provide guidance on specific subjects as well as on key policy and technical issues.

1.5   The AFI Plan steering committee is familiar with the activities of the project in respect of aviation safety as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) regularly reports to this committee the activities of the component on Support to the Improvement of Aviation safety in Africa (SIASA).

2.   PROJECT AVSEC COMPONENT

2.1   The AVSEC component of the project includes activities related to facilitation as defined in its terms of reference.

The key project objectives are:

i)   Implementation of international aviation security regulations at the regional and national levels; and
ii) Improvement of aviation security through technical assistance and training provided at regional and national levels.

2.2   These key project objectives contribute towards the over-riding objectives of facilitating Africa's economic growth, connectivity and the promotion of regional integration.

2.1.1   Project Activities

The project activities include the following:

2.1.1.1   At the National level, for selected priority countries:

a) Provision of policy advice and/or technical assistance aimed at:

i)   Conducting inspections/audits to ensure the implementation of ICAO USAP Corrective Actions Plan and compliance/rectification of deficiencies;

ii) Establishing and managing an effective Aviation Security Oversight System effective National in accordance with ICAO Doc. 9734 Part C, 1st Edition – 2007;

iii) Implementing appropriate security measures in accordance with ICAO Doc. 8973 - Aviation Security Manual - 8th Edition 2011, both at the National level and at the local level at major international airport(s) to improve compliance with Annex 17 SARPs and other requirements such as for flights to the EU – including measures to implement effective airport access and perimeter controls; aircraft protection; baggage, cargo and mail screening; passenger and carry-on baggage screening and controls; staff checks; local supervision; and

iv) Ensuring adequate implementation of security measures through the availability of adequately calibrated and maintained AVSEC equipment.

b) Provision of specific AVSEC training programs designed to address national needs and to meet ICAO requirements.

A total of twelve (12) African countries have been assisted by the project in various areas of aviation security and facilitation including in-house training. In many cases, requirements on AVSEC exercises are not met.

2.1.1.2 **At the Regional level:**

a) Provision of AVSEC training programs designed to improve the knowledge, skills and performance of security staff in the non-priority countries and to meet ICAO requirements.

b) Provision of computerised equipment to suitable aviation security training schools in the Eastern, Central, Southern and Western regions to enhance the effectiveness of security controls at airports.

c) Provision of technical assistance in the maintenance of a pool of ICAO qualified aviation security trainers, inspectors and auditors.

d) Coordination with other on-going projects such as the projects funded by the World Bank in Western and Central Africa, ICAO's COSCAPs in Africa including BAGASOO, CEMAC, SADC and UEMOA and the ASACA Program to avoid any overlap in the provision of technical assistance or training services.

At the regional level, six training sessions have been conducted at EASA (Eastern African Aviation School), ERNAM (Ecole Regional de Navigation Aerienne et Management), ASTC (Aviation Security Training Centre) and ACSA Training Centre. An average of eleven States participated in each session.

2.1.1.3 **At the Continental level:**

The project intends to develop a plan to complement the efforts of ICAO by establishing a pool of AVSEC Experts (Inspectors and Instructors) for Africa.

2.1.2   Project Expected Results

2.1.2.1   The expected results to be achieved under the project are:

    a)   The establishment of a suitable legislation and operational framework for aviation security at the regional and, where appropriate, the national level.
    b)   Reduction in the number of African ACP States failing to meet ICAO SARPs in the number of corrective actions required.
    c)   Development of appropriately trained aviation security inspectors and security personnel.
    d)   Provision of specialist equipment for suitable aviation training schools in the Eastern, Central, Southern and Western regions.

2.1.2.2   The expected results are regularly measured throughout the implementation of the project with specific indicators (such as the reduction in the number of corrective actions required under the USAP audits, the number of trained aviation security personnel, etc.).

2.1.3   Consultations with other organisations

2.1.3.1   During the implementation of the project there were informal consultations with organisations such as ICAO and CASSOA. The consultant participated in some events organized by ACI in Africa concerning aviation security.

2.1.4   Representation of AU Commission in events concerning AFI SECFAL Plan

2.1.4.1   Similar to activities related to AFI Plan on aviation safety, AU Commission will be represented by AFCAC in all events concerning AFI SECFAL Plan except during the AFI Aviation Week.

3.   ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING

3.1.   The meeting is invited to:

    a)   Take note of this Working Paper;
    b)   Develop a mechanism that will allow the project add value to AFI SECFAL Plan and the implementation of Declaration, targets and plan of action on aviation security and facilitation in Africa;
    c)   Define the way forward to facilitate the ownership of the end result of the project by African States through continuity of required services; and
    d)   Design a coordination framework among key stakeholders and partners in strengthening aviation security and facilitation in Africa.