



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN OFFICE**

**TENTH MEETING OF THE AERODROME OPERATIONS PLANNING SUB-GROUP
(AOP/SG/10) (NAIROBI, KENYA, 5-7 AUGUST 2013)**

Agenda Item 6: ICAO/ACI APEX Programme

**Title: Assistance to the Civil Aviation Authorities of UEMOA Member States and Mauritania
for the certification of State aerodromes**

(Presented by UEMOA COSCAP)

SUMMARY

In order to correct the safety oversight deficiencies identified by the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audits, the UEMOA Commission has embarked on the implementation of the UEMOA Common Air Transport Programme (PCTA) adopted on 27 June 2002, with the following expected results: i) a community civil aviation regulation, made up of 18 community texts including a community civil aviation code, and ii) a system of community aviation safety oversight which has been effective since 2005, thanks to the collaboration established with ICAO, the implementation of the COSCAP Project, a transition towards a community aviation safety and security oversight agency. The main goal of this Project is to assist participating States in enhancing their safety oversight mechanisms.

The UEMOA COSCAP has put in place a programme of assistance to States in the aerodrome field. This programme, which is based on ICAO Standards and ACI Best Practices, is in line with the UEMOA-COSCAP project document and aims at:

- assisting States in certifying aerodromes in accordance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices;
- assisting States in providing continuing oversight of aerodrome operations.

Action required :

The meeting is invited to :

- take into account the information contained in this Information Paper;
- consider the wish expressed in the conclusion

References:

- UEMOA Treaty ;
- Common Air Transport Programme of UEMOA Member States;
- Chicago Convention and its Technical Annexes.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The results of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audits Programme (USOAP) have revealed that many States experience difficulties in certifying their airports and ensuring safety oversight. This is particularly true in our poor African countries which lack a legal framework and the human, financial and technical resources to comply with the minimum requirements contained in the Chicago Convention and its Annexes.

1.2 UEMOA, through the Common Air Transport Programme (PCTA), has adopted, as an interim solution to this problem, the implementation of the COSCAP programme to assist its Member States in enhancing their safety oversight mechanisms by providing guidance, training and advice to Civil Aviation Authorities and the industry in the implementation of relevant standards and practices.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 UEMOA – COSCAP staff comprise AIR, OPS, PEL and AGA Regional Inspectors under the supervision of a Team Leader appointed from among the Inspectors.

2.2 UEMOA- COSCAP technical assistance is provided in the following areas:

- a) Training (on site training of staff from Civil Aviation Administrations and airports to prepare them for aerodrome certification).
- b) Conduct of aerodrome certification activities (accompanying different administrations to the sites for their aerodrome certification process by assisting them with checking the compliance of infrastructures, putting in place the structures, manuals and procedures necessary for the certification).

2.3 Several activities have been carried out in this regard in Member States, with the following as the most outstanding:

- Technical assistance to civil aviation administrations of several States in developing or updating technical regulations, designing manuals and procedures ;
- Training of National Inspectors of Member States of the Project;
- On site training of the technical staff of aerodrome operators and civil aviation authorities of Member States on aerodrome safety and certification;
- Technical evaluation of the main aerodromes of some States and establishment of a time-line leading to the certification of these airports ;
- Setting up of technical assistance programmes with civil aviation administrations for the certification of their main airports;
- assistance to civil aviation administrations for the conduct of certification audits ;
- technical assistance to aerodrome operators for the preparation of the certification audit;
- Etc.

2.4 Within the framework of the certification audit of Lomé airport, the Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile du Togo has put in place a team made up of Inspectors from the Civil Aviation Administrations of Mali, Senegal and Togo, under the conduct of the UEMOA-COSCAP Inspector. This pooling of regional competences, which has enabled to meet set objectives, is a first and should be encouraged to ensure the quality of the aerodrome certification process.

2.5 With its rich experience in the region and its knowledge of the problems inherent in States, the UEMOA-COSCAP will continue to provide technical assistance to all the UEMOA Member States and Mauritania. The objective being to certify in the medium term the main airports of the States concerned. The programme established by the UEMOA-COSCAP to that effect covers six phases, ranging from training to the conduct of certification and continuing oversight activities.

2.6 Within the framework of international cooperation , the UEMOA- COSCAP takes part in joint assistance missions together with other organizations (ICAO Regional Office, EASA, AFCAC). Also, at the request of ICAO, UEMOA-COSCAP Inspectors take part in assistance missions to States which are not members of the Project. The UEMOA- COSCAP has also provided AFCAC with Inspectors under the AFI-CIS programme.

2.7 Within the framework of this international cooperation, the UEMOA-COSCAP is prepared to assist the ICAO/ACI APEX programme by putting its technical staff at its disposal.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 To improve air transport safety and efficiency in its Member States, UEMOA has opted for the harmonization of the regulatory process of aerodrome certification and oversight, in accordance with the provisions of the Chicago Convention and its Annexes and relevant documents..

3.2 With a view to promoting safety in the world, ICAO and its international technical and financial partners and States are urged to continue to provide support to the COSCAP's and regional civil aviation safety oversight organizations.

3.3 The Meeting is invited to take note of the action taken by the COSCAP and UEMOA to enhance civil aviation safety.

4 ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- Encourage the pooling of competences of States to carry out aerodrome certification audits, considering the poor human resources available at the national level ;
- Encourage the sharing of experiences between ICAO, States, the COSCAP projects and regional civil aviation safety oversight organizations ;
- Encourage the participation of these Organizations in the ICAO/ACI APEX programme.
