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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 26: Safety management and safety data

CANSO SMS STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND ITS RELATION TO SSP

(Presented by the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO))

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Safety Management System (SMS) Standard of Excellence provides a framework for a proactive performance-based approach to safety management for air navigation service providers (ANSPs) and is complementary to the safety management Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) that became applicable as of November 2006 for the implementation of the State safety programme (SSP) and safety management systems (SMS).

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) encourage States to recognize the value of the CANSO SMS Standard of Excellence in enhancing safety pursuant to the Global Aviation Safety Plan; and
- b) recognize the complementary role of the CANSO SMS Standard of Excellence to the SSP and SMS requirements mandated for implementation by States and service providers.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective A.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 9935, <i>Report of the High-level Safety Conference (2010)</i>

¹ Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish versions provided by CANSO.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The transition to the State safety programme (SSP) requires that the traditional prescriptive regulatory approach be complemented by a proactive performance-based approach to safety management. The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Safety Management System (SMS) Standard of Excellence provides a framework for such a proactive performance-based approach to safety management for air navigation service providers (ANSPs).

1.2 The need to provide a framework for ANSPs within which safety can be managed has long been recognized at the international and, in some cases, the regional and domestic levels. However, the regulations relating to SMS are, for the most part, scoped as general statements of requirement against which compliance can be tested rather than providing an evolutionary pathway that drives a culture of continual improvement. ANSP management must continually strive to improve the ways they identify risks and manage safety.

1.3 While guidance material relating to the implementation of an SMS is available, ANSP management may struggle to determine how they can best comply with existing or proposed regulations. This reflects the nature of existing regulations and guidance material. Further, lessons learned in the implementation of SMS are not readily made available. CANSO, as the industry trade association for ANSPs, has therefore provided the means to share best practises among ANSPs, allowing management to learn from each other.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The CANSO SMS Standard of Excellence was approved by its Members during the 2009 Annual General Meeting, after more than a year's work by its Safety Standing Committee (SSC) that created it. The Standard does not supersede either domestic or international regulations on safety management. Rather, it draws on the collective experiences of CANSO Member ANSPs and aims to complement and supplement existing standards and/or regulations.

2.2 The Standard provides a pathway for ANSPs to transition from a purely regulatory compliance organization to an organization focussed on continuous learning and improvement. CANSO recommends the use of the Standard as guidance for CANSO Member ANSPs, but its application is not binding. The purpose of this Standard is to:

- a) drive improvement within and transfer learning across the industry;
- b) allow each Member ANSP to build an SMS that is commensurate to the size and complexity of its specific operation;
- c) provide a path for continuous improvement beyond that required by both international and domestic regulations; and

- d) provide a means for ANSP management to directly and deliberately plan for safety at a corporate, group and project levels to assure that risks to operational service delivery are reduced as far as reasonably practicable.

2.3 The CANSO Standard of Excellence in SMS is therefore a planning tool and emphasizes a phased step-by-step approach to implementation of an SMS. It enables ANSP management to prioritize their safety efforts and to initially focus on implementation of the more fundamental basic elements that are considered to deliver immediate safety benefits while planning the implementation of the more sophisticated SMS elements in later phases of SMS development.

2.4 The CANSO Standard of Excellence also allows for better measurement and communication. It aims to enable ANSP management to measure and understand SMS maturity in their organization. In addition, it enables each SMS to be measured against a common industry air traffic management (ATM) Standard.

2.5 Further, the Standard can be used as an audit tool and management checklist. ANSP management can expect more comprehensive and possibly additional safety audits in the future. The Standard therefore enables management to measure and compare the status of its SMS development against the reference for SMS excellence as expressed in the CANSO Standard.

2.6 And finally, the Standard will contribute towards increased cost-effectiveness by enabling the development of standardized training courses, safety promotion campaigns and mentoring programmes.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 During the High-level Safety Conference (HLSC 2010), it was recognized that *“The implementation of SSP by States and SMS by the industry has the potential to bring significant safety benefits to international civil aviation through the use of proactive risk reduction strategies. However, it requires high-level commitment from all stakeholders and will bring about significant changes to existing practices of States to discharge their safety responsibilities.”* The CANSO SMS Standard of Excellence is a demonstration of this commitment.

3.2 CANSO has developed its SMS Standard of Excellence based on the sharing of best practices among its Member ANSPs in regards to SMS implementation. It provides a framework for a proactive performance-based approach to safety management for ANSPs, and is complementary to the regulatory requirement for SMS implementation by service providers. The value of the CANSO Standard should therefore be recognized in the development and implementation of the SSP.