



ASSEMBLY – 35TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 20: Increasing the effectiveness of ICAO

STRENGTHENING ICAO REGIONAL OFFICES IN AFRICA

(Presented by Ethiopia)

SUMMARY

This paper deals with the important role of ICAO Regional Offices in assisting States in the AFI Region. It Also highlights the linkage between the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) and the two Regional Offices In Dakar and Nairobi.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The ICAO Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi are covering the entire African Continent and the Indian Ocean Region, where most States are facing the daunting challenge to improve existing levels of Safety in the air navigation field.
- 1.2 As the international nature of Civil Aviation is not limited by boundaries ICAO launched Regional Planning Groups (PIRGs) to harmonize development in the field of air navigation and other related matters. All the Regional Offices of ICAO have served as focal points in the activities of PIRGs.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Based on the findings of both the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) and the Universal Security Audit Program (USAP) a number of Contracting States in the AFI Region need to do more to overcome their shortcomings in the areas of Safety and Security. In fact their inability to individually keep qualified personnel in safety oversight related fields would necessitate them to pull resources and establish Regional bodies to look after relevant Annexes.
- 2.2 In this regard the ICAO Regional Offices can play an important role by bringing together like-minded States to establish such Regional or Sub-Regional bodies when and where situations permit.
- 2.3 Regarding the implementation of Regional Air Navigation Plans, Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) long time ago to ensure harmonized development in the field. The Regional Offices of ICAO have served as focal points of these groups. However, this important task of Regional Offices is far from completion.

- In the AFI Region a number of Contracting States have major part of their Air Navigation Plans still on the drawing boards.
- Those systems that have reached implementation phase still have compatibility problems.
- Air Traffic Services Direct Speech Circuits via public switched microwaves are still prone to repeated breakdowns.
- Search and Rescue activities are still far from satisfactory level due to lack of proper agreements between and among Contracting States.
- Adequate Air Traffic Services Agreements between adjacent FIRs do not exist through out the continent.
- Civil Aviation training centres are proliferating with similar curricula while certain vital courses are not offered by any one of them.

These are only few examples where the ICAO Regional Offices could play at least in the AFI Region the role of coordination and harmonization to maintain Safety, Security and implementing the Air Navigation Plan.

- 2.4 In this regard the Dakar & Nairobi Regional Offices of ICAO Played & will continue to play an invaluable role as the countries accredited to them have a long list of tasks in modernizing their air navigation facilities, fulfil standards in Safety and Security related areas as per ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
- 2.5 Presently the financial constraint faced by ICAO, has necessitated the need to explore possible areas where savings can be made by way of restructuring or narrowing the scope of some of its activities. In pursuit of this drastic cost cutting attempt ICAO Regional Office especially those in the AFI Region should not be considered as easy targets.

3. **CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The ICAO Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi have served to define the air navigation plan for the AFI Region and will continue to up date this task as new technologies emerge.
- 3.2 If Contracting States in the AFI Region try to implement the Regional Air Navigation Plans with out involving the Regional Offices or leave them individually tackle to rectify identified deficiencies in Safety and Security with no coordination at the Regional or Sub-Regional levels, there will come a time where enormous resource mobilization will be required to address such issues but with no guarantee for its effectiveness.
- 3.3 Among the three core activities of ICAO (Safety, Security and Environment) the concern on Safety and Security levels in the AFI Region is relatively high.. Therefore Regional Offices in the AFI Region should be strengthened to continue assisting AFI States in their endeavour to implement Regional Air Navigation Plans and overcome shortcomings identified by audits.

4. **ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY**

- 4.1 The Assembly is invited to
- a) note the importance of the Dakar and Nairobi Regional Offices for the AFI States
 - b) allocate sufficient resources and strengthen the Dakar and Nairobi Regional Offices to enable them to continue assisting AFI States in their endeavour implement the Air Navigation Plans and to over come deficiencies identified during USOAP & USAP.