



ACTION PLAN

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT SYSTEM

SUMMARY

This action plan presents the steps toward establishing a Regional Accident Investigation Organisation of the group of States represented by the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Oversight System (CASSOS) as well as confirming that this organisation will support aircraft accidents and incidents investigation and the improvement of safety in the Region.

AIG Group Decision: The Group:

- a) **Notes** the creation of the AIG Regional Accident Investigation Organisation of CASSOS (CARAIO)
- b) Urges the CASSOS States to subscribe to agreements with the CARAIO to strengthen regional AIG cooperation;
- c) Supports the CARAIO in achieving its objectives aimed at improving effective implementation (EI) of its member States and to reduce the aircraft accident and incident rates in the Region.
- d) Notes the resolution of the 38th Session of ICAO Assembly that recommended that Member States cooperate in the investigation of aircraft accidents, and that to this end urged regional accident and incident investigation organizations (RAIOs), to assist their member states by providing expert assistance and training opportunities.

<i>Strategic objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Effective Implementation within the concept of the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) approach by ICAO. • Improved accident investigation capability within the CASSOS group of states.
<i>Financial considerations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preparation of an estimate of the funding level required for the operation. • Identify the resources required to establish and manage the organization. • Identify Funding partners.
<i>Legal considerations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASSOS and ICAO to consider the need to have a legal entity to strengthen the AIG group • A short term the mechanism shall be defined. • In the medium-long term, the legislations for each country to be defined. • As far as possible the legislation of all States will be harmonized.
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the Tele-conference meeting for the Establishment of CASSOS Regional AIG organization (CARAIO) (7 June 2016) • NACC/DCA/6 RAIO discussion matters • ICAO Document 9946- Manual on Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organization (RAIO) • Working Paper A39-WP/ TE/13/05/16 • NACC/DCA/6/4

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Under Presentation NACC/DCA/6/4-Agenda item 4, the Secretariat commented on the

lack or low level of Effective Implementation (EI) observed in the Caribbean States and particularly CASSOS member States. Similarly, the Meeting recalled that CASSOS has requested ICAO and other related entities like COCESNA/GRIAA to provide assistance for a regional solution on improving AIG oversight and investigations. In this regard a teleconference was convened to discuss the feasibility of the formation of a CASSOS Regional AIG (CARAIO), with the vision of improving the effective implementation (EI) of its States and to support the decrease of aircraft accident and incident rate in the CASSOS Region.

1.2 The establishment of the CARAIO for CASSOS member states will be accomplished by providing economies of scale through the sharing of the necessary financial and human resources under the ICAO “No Country Left Behind initiative. It was agreed that the Region consider the following:

- i. Conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of the RAIO in coordination with ICAO HQ AIG Section, COCESNA/ACSA, and other accident investigation agencies
- ii. Conduct a study to determine existing capabilities (both human and material) of individual States to carry out their investigation responsibilities, such as number of qualified personnel, research and analysis institutions, and facilities to carry out flight data recorder readout and analysis
- iii. Develop a regional training programme in coordination with ICAO GAT, NAM/CAR Training Centers, etc.
- iv. Develop an action plan for improving AIG area under USOAP-CMA
- v. Develop an action plan for effective implementation of a RAIO

2. CARAIO ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 To establish the CARAIO the incumbent Group members will hold a series of virtual meetings with decisions made as to the number of face to face meetings to be conducted. The Group will develop the plan utilising ICAO document 9946 as the guide.

2.2 The following points emanating from the NACC/DCA/6 and the CASSOS 18th DCA meeting first need to be addressed:

2.2.1 Conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of the RAIO in coordination with ICAO HQ AIG Section, COCESNA/ACSA, and other accident investigation agencies. The CASSOS AIG group will undertake to seek assistance with and accomplish this task over a four (4) month period to be completed by November 30th 2016.

2.2.2 Conduct study to determine existing capabilities (both human and material) of individual States to carry out their investigation responsibilities, such as number of qualified personnel, research and analysis institutions, and facilities to carry out flight data recorder readout and analysis. The CASSOS AIG group agreed to undertake the study of their state capabilities. However, it was the consensus of the group that some data analysis and the Flight Data recorder read out and analysis would have to be extra regional. This action is to be completed by July 30th 2016.

2.2.3 Develop a regional training program: in coordination with ICAO, GAT, NAM/CAR...the CASSOS AIG group agreed that this would be discussed separately.

2.2.4 Develop an Action plan for improving AIG under USOAP –CMA: The CASSOS AIG group will discuss this at the next teleconference meeting August 3rd 2016 Guyana representative reported that Guyana had now ratified a separate Accident Investigation Unit,

however at this point it was still being developed and was at the time of the meeting supported by the local CAA.

2.3 Develop for review a Draft Agreement between the CASSOS Group of States for the Establishment and Management of a Regional Accident and Investigation Organisation (CASSOS RAIO).

2.3.1A Draft Agreement was developed utilizing the (document outline in Document 9946). The document was then circulated to the members for review by their Directors General. Some positive comments have been garnered. Interim approval of the document has been requested by each member of the group.

2.3.2. Further steps in developing the CARAIO:

- Group meeting to present current situation in the individual Authorities and agree on strategic plan to conform to the CARAIO.(February2017)
- AIG Group meet to formally establish the CARAIO with the necessary legislation and guidance materials for the AIG mechanism (December 2018)
- AIG Authorities meet to sign multinational technical cooperation agreement to facilitate the cooperation within the states. This would be the implementing mechanism for the sharing of knowledge and resources.(January /February2019)

2.3.3 During the stages of the process, States will have to agree on the benefits that can be obtained with the implementation of the mechanism, considering also that this could be the solution for States having difficulties in attending their international commitments in matter of accidents investigation.

2.2.3.4 The CARAIO participation is open to the AIG Authorities of States of the Region, as well as to State and/or private entities that are interested in accidents and incidents investigation and express their will to be part of the CARAIO as special observers.

3. **Milestones**

3.1. Regulations and documents: A set of regulations and documents is to be developed in accordance with ICAO documents guidelines, in order that the investigation organizations of the Region adopt or harmonise it. This will allow standardised procedures for carrying out accidents and incidents investigations in the region within a common and harmonised framework.

3.2. DATA: A safety data collection and processing system (SDCPS) shall be established to guarantee the collection, storage and management of accidents and incidents data of member States. This system will allow for analysis and permit establishing the necessary preventive measures to improve safety in the region.

3.3 ASSISTANCE: A mechanism is to be developed to provide assistance to those CASSOS states with low AIG effective implementation (EI) in particular for the revision of AIG protocol questions (PQ).

3.4 WEBSITE: the potential for developing a CARAIO website should be investigated. This would enhance the availability and distribution of information within the group.

3.5 Training: the potential for immediate recurrent training for incumbent Investigators and long-term training for new inspectors is to be actively pursued.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The CASSOS AIG (CARAIO) of the CASSOS group of States when established will be, without any doubt, a fundamental tool for the safety of aviation and the improvement of its member States and of the Region.