Twenty Second Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/22)

ICAO SAFETY INFORMATION MONITORING SYSTEM (SIMS)

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This working paper presents information related to the ICAO Safety Information Monitoring System (SIMS), and specifically the ramp inspections application. The application is designed for the sharing of ramp inspections data at the regional level among States. The application can also be used to maintain or improve safety and compliance at national, regional, and global level, by allowing the sharing of this information on the secured platform of ICAO. It also provides for a risk-based approach towards a foreign air operator surveillance task by prioritizing inspections, and making effective use of data for decision making. Action by the Meeting: The meeting is to encourage AFI States to join the SIMS project and contribute to the ramp inspection application, by providing ramp inspection data for the analysis and sharing of safety information within the region.

Strategic Objectives	This working paper relates to Safety

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1.   ICAO's evolving safety strategy includes several analysis solutions and initiatives that support the effective implementation of State Safety Programmes (SSPs) and safety management systems (SMSs) by States and service providers while also contributing to increased levels of capacity and efficiency.

1.2.   These solutions, collectively referred to as air navigation integration analysis solutions, include data, tools, methodologies and training that facilitate data-driven decision-making and help stakeholders identify and manage safety risks. These tools and methodologies also contribute to the development of safety information.

1.3.   One of the ICAO tools is the Safety Information Monitoring System (SIMS). SIMS is a web-based information system comprising of applications which generate indicators for the support of Safety Management (SSP and SMS). SIMS promotes the cooperation amongst States and industry to collect and analyze available information pertinent to the monitoring of the aviation sector's safety performance.

1.4.   The system is for ICAO Member States, provided at no cost, and accessible via the ICAO Secure Portal. SIMS facilitates the processing and analysis of safety data, and allows regional monitoring or global information sharing.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   Article 16 to *the Convention on International Civil Aviation*, gives the right to the appropriate authorities of the contracting States, without unreasonable delay, to search aircraft of the other contracting States on landing or departure, and to inspect the certificates and other documents prescribed by the Convention and its Annexes. The published ICAO doc 8335 *Manual of Procedures for Operations Inspection Certification and Continued Surveillance* part VI, contains provisions for State's responsibilities regarding commercial air transport operations by foreign operators, including the continued surveillance hereof.

2.2   The same part in the guidance document encourages the sharing of safety relevant findings regarding foreign operators between contracting States. Different ICAO regions or States have initiated shared databases, or online platforms for the sharing of ramp inspection data.

2.3   Within the context of SIMS, ICAO has developed an application for the sharing of ramp inspections data at regional level among States. The application is to be used to maintain or improve safety and compliance at national, regional, and global level, by allowing the sharing of this information on the secured platform of ICAO.

2.4   Indicators are used for the monitoring and analysis of the safety information, by the participating States, within their respective Regional Aviation Safety Groups (RASGs) in support of safety risk management.

2.5   The application is governed by a Steering Committee chaired and co-chaired by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with six other States as members, to ensure harmonization, quality, and procedures are followed by the participating States. Active use of the SIMS Ramp inspection application has already started within the RASG-PA region, and expanding to other regions in a phased approach.

2.6   Access to this application is limited to authorized and approved users (inspectors) only, and information can be seen as State of inspection, State of operator, or within the assigned RASG by region of inspection or region of operator. Data provided by the State of inspection, generates data for the State of operator, and needs to follow the provisions of ICAO Doc 8335, and be in accordance with the SIMS-RI procedures.

2.7   The RASG-AFI States are invited to join SIMS, especially contributing to the ramp inspections application, and use this free application for risk-based approach towards their foreign air operator surveillance tasks. States will be able to allocate resources to increase efficiency by prioritizing inspections, and make effective use of available data for decision making.

3   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

   a) note the contents of this working paper; and
   b) Encourage States to join SIMS and contribute data to the ramp inspections application.

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