



ICAO

**Twenty-Second Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/22)
(Accra, Ghana, 29 July – 2 August 2019)**

Agenda Item 4: Other Air Navigation Issues

**STATUS OF COOPERATION AMONG REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AFI REGION**

(Presented by EAC - CASSOA)

SUMMARY	
<p>This paper outlines on the existing and strategic enhancement of cooperation amongst the Regional Safety Oversight Organizations within the AFI region on matters of mutual benefit on the basis of established RSOOs Cooperative Platform. In the AFI region, positive cooperative actions have taken place among the EAC-CASSOA, BAGASOO and iSASO.</p>	
<p>Action: The meeting is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) take note of the existing cooperation among the RSOOs in the AFI region; b) call upon RSOOs to enhance cooperation for the benefit of the States in the AFI region and; c) call upon RSOOs in the AFI region to assess their alignment with the Abuja Safety Targets, objectives contained in the AFI Plan and Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) in support of the AFI States. 	
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives A
<i>Financial implications:</i>	N/A
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAO Assembly Resolution A39-14 on Regional cooperation and assistance to resolve safety deficiencies, establishing priorities and setting measurable targets • RSOO-CP – Terms of Reference • Doc 9734 “Safety oversight manual. Part B. The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization” • Doc 1004 “Global Aviation Safety Plan” • AFI Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Renewed calls for collaboration among global RSOOs were made during the joint Global Forum on Regional Safety Oversight Organizations in Ezulwini, Swaziland, from 22 to 24 March 2017, with the generous support and hospitality of the Kingdom of Swaziland. Approximately 200 participants from 48 States and 32 International Organizations attended the event with 13 Ministers attending the ministerial portion from Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

1.2 The regional Ministerial Declaration endorsed establishment of a new cooperative platform for RSOOs to facilitate the agreed evolution in regional collaboration. The events represented a major milestone in the evolution of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations for civil aviation safety. The presence of government Ministers helped to ensure that the commitments will be treated seriously and sustainably, and the shared objectives for collaborative AFI Region safety oversight have been formalized through their official Declaration.

2. OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS EMANATING FROM RSOO COOPERATIVE PLATFORM

2.1 The objectives of the Platform include providing a forum for facilitation of inter-RSOO communication whereby the platform will act as an information hub and competence centre by facilitating exchange of information and sharing of best practices, coordinating capacity building activities, developing technical guidance material as well as establishing harmonized nomenclature, standards and specifications relevant for the RSOOs activities. In addition, the Platform can facilitate exchange of data, conduct data analysis based on common taxonomy, nurture the continued stability and progression of RSOOs with a view to strengthen RSOOs support to States. Also, the Platform will act as interface with the ICAO on matters of mutual interest.

2.2 Members of the RSOOs Platform can greatly anticipate to benefit of a part of the network of the RSOOs sharing common issues and solutions, access to best practices and technical guidance material developed by RSOO party to the Platform. In addition, the RSOOs can share financial resources offered from the development partners as well direct interface between RSOO with ICAO.

3. MEMBERSHIP TO THE COOPERATIVE PLATFORM

3.1 For the purpose of the Cooperative Platform, an RSOO would be any regional or sub-regional aviation safety body that assists a group of States in meeting their safety oversight obligations or carries out safety oversight tasks and functions on behalf of a State or group of States, depending on the delegation levels (DL). This could include RSOOs and COSCAPs.

3.2 Any RSOO may become a member of the cooperative platform. Any other aviation safety regional mechanism under development may join, as decided on a case-by-case basis and if invited by ICAO.

3.3 Members are expected to actively contribute to the activities of the Cooperative Platform through:

- a) nominating a focal point and attending regularly Platform meetings and teleconferences/video conferences;
- b) sharing information and best practices;
- c) contributing with expertise and experts to conduct the work of the Platform and in assisting their RSOOs;
- d) drafting and commenting on proposals, guidance material and other documents;
- e) contributing to formalizing a common position of RSOOs and the Cooperative Platform on a specific topic and ensure that the RSOO view is coordinated with the members of the RSOO; and
- f) promoting the activities of ICAO and the Cooperative Platform in their region.

4. STATUS AND EXPERIENCE FROM THE RSOO'S COOPERATION FROM EAC CASSOA

4.1 The RSOOs in the AFI region has demonstrated willingness to foster cooperation and collaboration on various spheres including, but not limited to, sharing of knowledge on management systems of RSOOs, exchanging of documentation and capacity building methods. The case in point is the existing collaboration and cooperation between EAC CASSOA and BAGASOO where exchange of documentation on Inspector Training System (ITS) and other technical guidance material has been in existence.

4.2 Additionally, the collaboration and cooperation between EAC CASSOA, BAGASOO, on one hand, and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on the other, under the European Union - Africa Safety in Aviation (EU-ASA) project has been initiated and initial project concepts developed. The initial identification and analysis of projects to support the African continent on building capacity of RSOOs has been conducted by EAC CASSOA. The projects will be implemented from year 2020 after conducting final assessment and agreement among parties during September 2019 in Montenegro, Europe.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 As a result of the interaction among the RSOOs, there has been enhanced cooperation amongst the Regional Safety Oversight Organizations within the AFI region on matters of mutual benefit in line with enhancing the mandate to their respective States, notably between EAC-CASSOA, BAGASOO and iSASO. The meeting is therefore, invited to:

- a) take note of the existing cooperation among the RSOOs in the AFI region
- b) call upon RSOOs to enhance cooperation for the benefit of the States in the AFI region and:
- c) call upon RSOOs in the AFI region to assess their alignment with the Abuja Safety Targets and objectives contained in the AFI Plan and Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) in support of the AFI States.