Fifth Meeting of the African Air Navigation Services Providers

(Lomé, Togo, 28 March - 1ˢᵗ April 2022)

Agenda Item 2: Review of the status of implementation of the recommendations of the last meeting of the African ANSPs

Activities of the CANSO AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism

ANSP perspectives *(Ghana.)*

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents some perspectives on the activities of the AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism over the period that it was organized until the emergence of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Action by the Meeting can be found in paragraph 4	
REFRENCE(S)	
Strategic Objectives	Re-igniting Peer Review process and making it more efficient and effective

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Africa ANSP Safety Initiative was launched in Montreal during the High Level Safety Conference in February 2015. The objective of the meeting was to address some of the air navigation challenges that the AFI region was facing. The initiative was to enable participating ANSPs to standardize the elements of their safety management systems in line with peers. The results was to allow ANSPs to determine the maturity levels of their Safety Management Systems. The initiative adopted CANSO Standard of Excellence (SoE) in Safety Management Systems (SMS), CANSO SMS Implementation Guide, and CANSO Safety Maturity Survey as baseline guiding documents

1.2   Pursuant to that the 21ˢᵗ AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/21) meeting was held between 09-11 October 2017 in Nairobi during which the African Air Navigation Service Peer Review programme was discussed.

1.3   The main objective was to establish a peer review mechanism among and between ANSPs to improve the capabilities of the ANSPs and enhance the safety and quality of Air Navigation Services in the AFI region. The initiative aims at continuously helping ANSPs improve the safety of air navigation in their areas of responsibility, and to fulfil their obligations stemming from the Chicago Convention, particularly in terms of air navigation services, including: ATS, the design of flight procedures, AIS, mapping, MET, CNS, SAR; and SMS. Activities of the peer review will be based on cross audits by independent teams of auditors from other ANSPs and other bodies of civil aviation; sharing of experiences and best practices; mutual assistance and data protection.

1.4   Two Peer Review activities were running concurrently. That being spearheaded by CANSO and that of ICAO.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   In the pilot ICAO Peer Review, Ghana (GCAA) was paired with Madagascar (ASECNA). Madagascar (ASECNA) was in Ghana for the exercise from 2nd to 4th October, 2019, while Ghana (GCAA) undertook the exercise in Madagascar from 14th to 18th October, 2019. This exercise was very fruitful and beneficial to both teams as we learned from each other different ways of doing things, and best practices.

The AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism processes, spearheaded by CANSO were conducted in ANSP Groupings of at least three member states. The AFI CANSO ANSP Peer Review Mechanism Team 3 comprising Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) and Roberts Flight Information Region (RFIR).

2.2   The Peer Review Activities for Team 3 of which Ghana participated fully began with the first meeting which took place in Lagos, Nigeria on the 16th – 17th of November 2017, where NAMA's activities were reviewed. The second meeting was held in Accra from the 6th – 8th February, 2018 with GCAA being reviewed by both NAMA and Roberts FIR and finally the third meeting held in Monrovia from the 1st – 3rd August, 2018 where Roberts FIR activities also underwent the review.

2.3   Pre-review activities were conducted in accordance with the provisions of the programme manual. These included

   a)   The Review Protocol Questions (PQs) were sent to the ANSP undergoing the review prior to the on-site activities to access their level of effective implementation.
   b)   The document was filled and returned to the two other ANSPs team members before the Peer Review.

2.4   On-site activities were performed according to an on-site peer review activities schedule which included visits to Area Control Centre, Aerodrome Control Towers, Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Equipment, Aeronautical Information Services, Meteorological Services, Rescue and Fire Fighting Services Stations

2.5   Areas of operations reviewed included.

   i.   Air Traffic Services (ATS);

   ii.   Flight Procedures Design;

   iii.   Aeronautical Information Service (AIS)

   iv.   Meteorological Service (MET)

   v.   Communications, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) and

   vi.   Safety Management System (SMS).

2.5 Challenges of this laudable initiative include our inability to follow up on findings and see to their final resolution. Second and third rounds of the Peer Review could not be conducted, partly   due to financial challenges and travel ban brought about by COVID-19.   Attempts to conduct subsequent ones online could not materialize because of the On-Site visit aspect of it. Language differences, to some extent, was another challenge in the exercise.

Attachment

3.   CONCLUSION

3.1   The peer review Programme for African ANSPs, in its short period of existence has aided in the improvement in ANS infrastructure and enhance safety and quality of air navigation service in the AFI Region as ANSPs are able to observe and learn from best practices among their peers.

3.2   The framework of the peer review concept and its objectives, terms of reference, guiding principles, programme phases, guidance manual and protocol questions form the basis of the programme and have enhanced the quality objective, consistent and systematic process.

3.3   It is Ghana expectation that ANSPs and Partners in the AFI Region will ensure the necessary action in order to benefit from the peer reviews especially the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic.

3   ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1   The meeting is invited to:

a. Encourage cooperation and collaboration among the ANSPs in the AFI region to synergize their resources to improve safety in the region.

b. Re-ignite the peer review mechanism processes, as part of the procedure, adopt, and facilitate the periodic peer review exchange visit among Partner ANSPs under the agreed framework.

c. Take a critical look at other probable means of conducting the Peer Review if it cannot be done physically on site, and consider the activities that can be done on line

d. Based on the signed confidentiality agreement among ANSPs, support each other to address the identified weaknesses and retooling their SMS implementation plans and processes.

e. Consider merging the two Peer Review exercises for effective and efficient implementation of the programme