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By Jimena Blumenkron,
Policy Lead - USOAP CMA

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Farewell to two valuable team members who have completed their secondments with ICAO. A warm welcome to all new team members.



Louis Kweku Opoku

ICAO USOAP Standards and Procedures Officer and Team Leader of the Audit Team for South Africa



Ishmael Sebogodi

Manager ICAO Compliance Section – South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and National Continuous Monitoring Coordinator (NCMC) of South Africa

USOAP-1000: Audit of South Africa in March 2023

-Editorial

Interview with **Mr. Louis Kweku Opoku**, Team Leader of the ICAO audit team in South Africa and **Mr. Ishmael Sebogodi**, NCMC of South Africa. Read the full interview in the upcoming edition of *Uniting Aviation*.

Gentlemen, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed about the recently concluded audit of South Africa, which happened to be the 1000th activity conducted under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). For the benefit of our readership, I would like us to shed some light on this anniversary mission for the Programme.

Let us begin with an overview of the audit of South Africa, which was completed at the end of March this year. Louis, could you give us a summary of the preliminary results of this audit?

LKO: This audit revealed that South Africa was more committed in their performance to system enhancement and improved aviation safety, which makes them one of the



leading civil aviation authorities (CAAs) in Africa and the world. Of course, there is still room for further performance improvement.

The audit of South Africa this year was the 1000th activity conducted under USOAP. To both of you: was this audit any different from the previous USOAP activities that you had been a part of and if yes, in what way?

LKO: USOAP-1000 was an important milestone in the history of the Programme as it continues to embrace the evolution of the aviation sector. While it gives us a sense of achievement, in my opinion audits 999 and 1001 are the turning points and just as important as the 1000th audit. By the 25th anniversary of the Programme next year, we will see a number of upcoming changes, including the State Safety Programme Implementation Assessment (SSPIA) integration and enhancements to the audit process to make it more efficient vis-à-vis the new approaches and technologies in safety management of airspace that are being implemented.

IS: The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is tasked by the State to control and regulate civil aviation safety and security. The 2023 USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) audit was of course quite different for the State in several respects. Firstly, this was the first full scope on-site USOAP CMA audit for South Africa since the last USOAP Comprehensive Systems Approach (CSA) in 2007. In 2013 ICAO followed up with an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) and in 2017, a combination of an on-site and off-site USOAP CMA audits were conducted. Secondly, this audit, in its comprehensive approach, demonstrated the progressive way ICAO has reviewed and refocused the audit programme through the rationalization exercise undertaken a few years ago. The level of knowledge, expertise, transparency and engagement demonstrated sufficiently that ICAO has indeed progressed the audit methodology for the better. Thirdly, the 2023 audit was conducted by a strong ten-member audit team, which included two Deputy Directors from two ICAO Regional Offices. The eleventh member of the team was the Deputy Director, Monitoring, Analysis and Coordination (DD/MAC), Captain Denis Guindon who joined the team in the second week as an observer to witness and commemorate the 1000th USOAP activity. South Africa was indeed proud to share this momentous milestone with ICAO. The knowledge that this milestone is celebrated with South Africa also put immense pressure on the country to perform well. In total, there were eleven USOAP CMA team members, including three high-level staff members from ICAO. With such a strong team the results are indeed a true confirmation of South Africa's improved safety oversight capability under the current USOAP CMA dispensation.



The audit team with the Hon. Sindisiwe Chikunga, Minister of Transport and the Hon. Lisa Mangcu, Deputy Minister of Transport

South Africa has been quite proactive in improving its safety record. Ishmael, what were your objectives for the audit this year and how did you prepare?

IS: The main objective for this audit was to reassess South Africa's safety oversight capabilities. The State has since 2013 invested in human resources and adopted a continuous monitoring approach in dealing with USOAP CMA matters. To this end the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA), Ms. Poppy Khoza, established an ICAO Compliance Department with a dedicated team of experts within the SACAA, and their role is to perform continuous monitoring of the State's compliance to the critical elements (CEs). This team, as part of their duties, continuously assesses various audit areas on their performance against the Protocol Questions (PQs) and Priority Protocol Questions (PPQs).

The ICAO Compliance team is functioning effectively as an integral part of our continuous oversight improvement, considering the evolving aviation landscape and ICAO requirements. On an annual basis, the team develops and implements a plan that is aimed at assuring compliance with the State oversight obligations, in alignment with the USOAP CMA. This is achieved through the management of compliance checklists/electronic filing of differences (CC/EFOD), corrective action plans (CAPs), PQs self-assessment and State Aviation Activity Questionnaire (SAAQ). This approach has proven to be effective and efficient in ensuring the State USOAP preparedness at any given time.



Capt. Denis Guindon, DD/MAC presents Ms. Poppy Cosa, Director SACAA with a USOAP-1000 commemorative frame

An audit is a two-way street in which the hosting State plays an integral role. To both of you: what kind of mission support and facilitation you have received/provided during this audit?

LKO: Apart from the warm welcome, our South African counterparts showed a great deal of collaboration, professionalism and transparency. They provided information as needed and readily facilitated the requested industry visits. It was a pleasure to work with the SACAA staff.

IS: On behalf of the State and as an institution charged with the responsibility of running with these audits, the SACAA believes that the audit starts as soon as the audit dates are announced. Ensuring that the pre-audit processes run as smoothly as possible without any delays from the side of South Africa is very critical. The process of coordination between the State and ICAO is done by the NCMC duly appointed by the DCA. The lead auditor is introduced to the team responsible for the audit ahead of time to ensure smooth and open communication lines. The Director is always available to the lead and guide the SACAA team during the audit as and when required, and in case of any challenges during the audit. The SACAA arranged all the amenities and logistics in a way that makes it easy for the audit team to travel between their accommodation and the SACAA premises. The SACAA also ensured that the audit team is provided security at all times. The hotel accommodation included a safe and comfortable transport service between the hotel, airport, and CAA offices, including the industry visit locations.

USOAP-1000 was celebrated in South Africa during the audit. Tell us more about this event?

LKO: The positive preliminary results from the audit created a festive atmosphere. Our hosts from the SACAA were gratified by the fact that their efforts in preparation yielded the expected results. Moreover, they were proud to host such a safety-related milestone event as USOAP-1000, which was important not only for their State, but for Africa as a continent. The gala that they organized surpassed our expectations and gave us a chance to meet high-level officials such as their Minister of Transport, their Director of CAA and other VIPs.

IS: The celebration of the 1000th USOAP activity started long before the audit with media and social media placements shared by ICAO and the SACAA. The Department of Transport of South Africa in partnership with ICAO arranged an event to commemorate the 1000th USOAP activity. This event was hosted by South Africa through the SACAA in collaboration with ICAO, and this was indeed a success. In attendance were both the Minister of Transport, Hon. Sindisiwe Chikunga, and the Deputy Minister of Transport, Hon. Lisa Mangcu, the SACAA Board of Directors, ICAO Deputy Directors, the Director of the SACAA and Executive Team, key South African industry players, the ICAO audit team, the SACAA staff members, and members of various media entities. Capt. Guindon, DD/MAC, was actively engaged on behalf of ICAO with the media as several interviews were lined up to discuss the significance of the audit programme. This celebration, although held in South Africa was indeed a global milestone for civil aviation. ICAO as part of celebrating this milestone gifted the Minister, Deputy Minister and the Director of Civil Aviation with coins commemorating the 1000th USOAP activity. South Africa is indeed proud to have been part of this history which has left a lasting impact on the South African industry and the world.

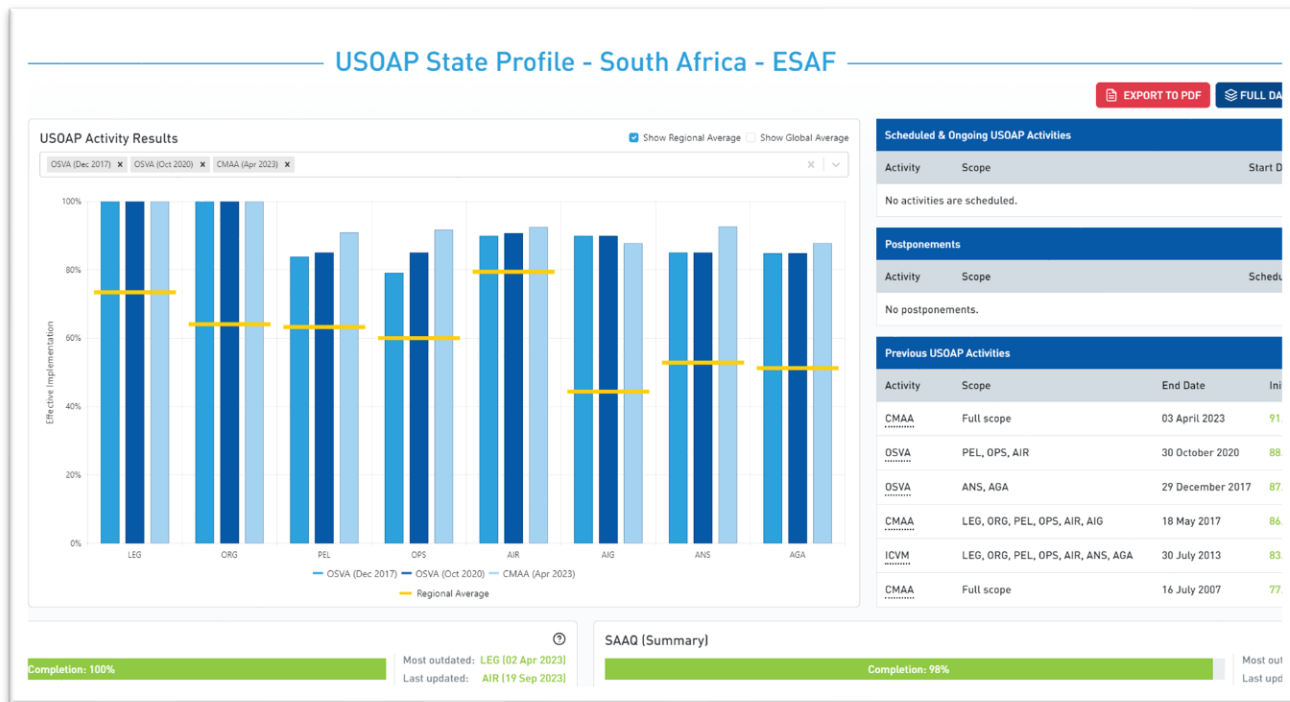


The USOAP-1000 Gala in South Africa

USOAP CMA State Profile

Overview of USOAP CMA State Profile - how it works, what it provides and its future development.

By Jimena Blumenkron, Policy Lead - USOAP CMA



What is USOAP CMA State Profile?

USOAP CMA State Profile is a tool that provides high-level overview of the State's status within the USOAP for use by State officials. Today, the data and information collected or generated by the USOAP CMA includes:

- Names of the Director General (DG) and NCMC;
- Results from the USOAP CMA activities, including activity scope, dates, effective implementation (EI) score, global and regional averages;
- Scheduled, ongoing and postponed USOAP CMA activities;
- Indication of a Significant Safety Concerns (SSC), if any;
- Mandatory Information Request (MIR), if any;
- EI indicators, such as overall, Priority PQ and Implementation EI, heat map of Not Satisfactory PQs and results by audit area or critical element (CE);
- Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) status and progress;
- Self-Assessment and State Aviation Activity Questionnaire (SAAQ) percentage of completion and latest updates; and
- Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) data, including reported levels and completion percentages.

Why do we need a USOAP CMA State Profile?

The development of the USOAP CMA State profile was recommended by the Group of Experts for a USOAP CMA Structured Review (GEUSR) to provide key decision makers in the State with visibility of data and information contained in the USOAP Online Framework (OLF) about the State's safety oversight system. The aim is to provide States officers with metrics

that give a clearer picture of where the strengths and weaknesses are within the States' safety oversight system at the time of the latest USOAP activity and to facilitate the allocation of resources on areas that require it most.

The USOAP CMA State Profile also includes the level of response and engagement with USOAP CMA processes, increasing the visibility of the sustainable engagement to relevant State authorities.

Where can you find the USOAP State Profile and who can access it?

This tool can be accessed through the OLF <https://soa.icao.int/usoap/Index.aspx>, specifically following the "State Dashboard" button.

The OLF is available to users granted with access and read rights. ICAO grants access to the NCMC nominated by the States as per the Memorandum of Understanding addressing the USOAP CMA and Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) with safety-related delegated functions and working arrangements regarding the USOAP CMA. NCMCs provide ICAO with updates and information on an ongoing basis mainly through the OLF. The NCMC is responsible for creating and managing the accounts and access rights of additional State/RSOOs users.

How does it work?

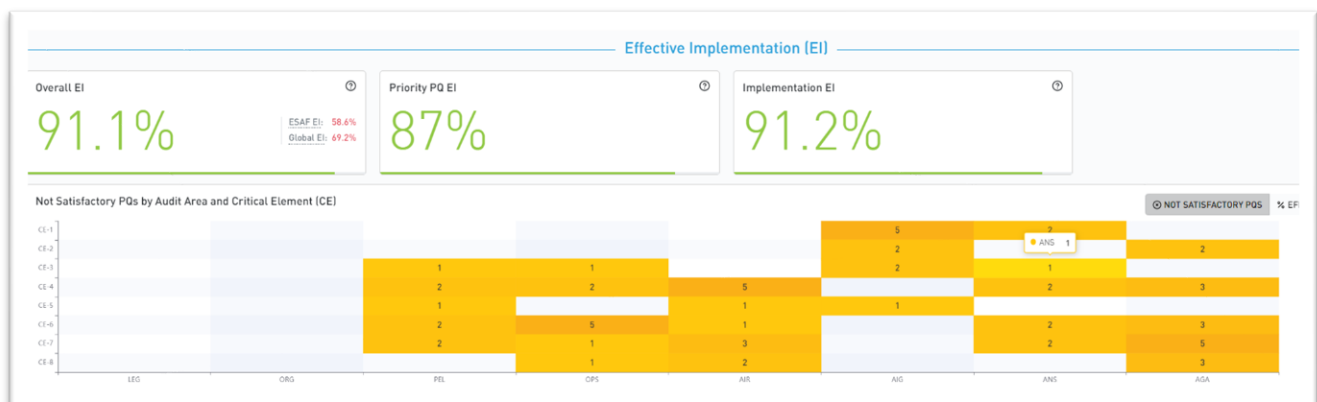
The USOAP State Profile is fed from the data collected and generated by the OLF. It displays finalized activities and the most recent entries by the States. The dynamic tool generates graphs that can be adjusted to specific needs and may direct the user to other areas within the OLF for additional details.

What's next?

In the mid-term, ICAO plans to continue evolving this tool by integrating data and information collected or generated by ICAO, such as accidents and air traffic. In the long-term ICAO plans to integrate additional sources of data shared by ICAO partners with related legal agreements in place. The inclusion of reliable and current data and information to this tool will support the continuous monitoring of States and their understanding of its safety performance.

ICAO continuously improves its processes and tools, such as the USOAP CMA State Profile. This is accomplished through web data insight and analysis, collecting, and addressing user feedback, communication and sharing of information about new tools, monitoring, learning, and adjusting, and documenting our experience while sharing with other areas within ICAO.

The USOAP CMA invites you to address any comment you may have on the USOAP CMA State Profile to usoap@icao.int.





DEPARTURES:

Farewell to two valuable team members who have completed their secondments with ICAO...

Mr. Robert Sprayberry, Technical Officer AIR - Design Manufacturing has returned to the Federation Aviation Administration (FAA) where from he was seconded to ICAO, at the end of this summer. Robert has spent three years with USOAP and has participated in the USOAP-1000 audit of South Africa.

Mr. Ivan-David Nicolas, Technical Officer AIG/AGA seconded from France to ICAO, has returned to the DGCA this Fall after nearly four years with USOAP. He was also part of the audit team which conducted the USOAP-1000 audit of South Africa.

We would like to thank Robert and Ivan-David for their sizeable contribution to the Programme and to wish them all the best in their future professional and personal lives. They will always be part of the USOAP FAMILY!

ARRIVALS:

A warm welcome to all new arrivals!

Mr. Jérôme Guévin, previously Audit Management Officer, replaced Tom Mistos as Chief, Oversight and Support Unit (OSU) in June 2023.

Ms. Sabrina Migliorino from Argentina joined Monitoring and Oversight (MO) in June 2023 as Consultant, Data Analytics and Management Specialist to help us beef up the USOAP data analytics.

Mr. Arnaud Georges René Desjardin, transferred to the Safety and Air Navigation Oversight Audit Section (OAS) in September 2023 as Standards and Procedures Officer, Accident Investigation (SPO AIG) from the ICAO regional office in Paris.

Mr. George Harrum, seconded from the FAA, joined OAS also in September 2023 as Technical Officer, Airworthiness (TO AIR).

Ms. Caroline Vuillin, seconded from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), joined MO in October 2023 as Quality Management and Audit Programme Development Officer.

Mr. Anthony Julian Vilante, seconded from the FAA, joined MO in October 2023 as Quality Management and Audit Programme Development Officer.

Mr. Jean-François Aubin, seconded from Transport Canada, has just joined OAS as Technical Officer Airworthiness - Maintenance (TO AIR-Maintenance).

Last, but not least, **Ms. Stacey-Marie Syne** has just joined OSU from the Environment Branch, Air Transport Bureau (ATB/ENV), replacing Yvonne Que as Senior Technical Report Production Associate.

Best of luck to all our new team members in their continued journey at ICAO!