



COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA (AFI PLAN)

TWELFTH AFI PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Montréal, 14 November 2013

Agenda Item 2: Assistance to the Seven Partner States on the establishment of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) and a Regional Accident Investigation Agency (RAIA).

(Presented by the Secretary)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents information related to the implementation of the ICAO Council Decision 191/3 of 19 November 2010 on the assistance to the Seven Partner States (Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia and Sudan) on the establishment of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) and a Regional Accident Investigation Agency (RAIA).

The AFI Plan developed an assistance project to support the Seven Partner States. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed on 19 December 2010 between the Civil Aviation Authorities of the Seven Partner States and the AFI Plan to establish a working relationship initiating implementation of activities with specific priority actions.

A High Level Review Task Force (HLRTF) was formed to spearhead the development of frameworks for establishing the regional organizations (RSOO and RAIA). An Organizational, Financial and Legal framework which included a Protocol were developed and submitted to the Seven Partner States for review. Two meetings were scheduled, however letters of regret were received from the majority of the Seven Partner States and the meetings did not take place.

Action: The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in the paper; and
- b) provide further instructions on the discontinuation of the provision of the approved assistance to the Seven Partner States.

1. DETERMINATION OF THE PRIORITY ACTIONS

1.1 As recommended by the ICAO Assembly Resolution A36-1, the Seven Partner States except Somalia have undergone a specific gap-analysis on the basis of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP).

1.2 During a regional review meeting (Khartoum, Sudan, 5-6 September 2010), the Seven Partner States determined the priority actions to resolve the gaps that have been identified through the gap analysis process. These priority actions included the establishment of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) and a Regional Accident Investigation Agency (RAIA).

1.3 The priority actions determined by the Seven Partner States have continuously been reviewed by the AFI Plan Steering Committee since its sixth meeting and approved by the ICAO Council (C-DEC 191/3 refers).

1.4 To give effect to ICAO Council Decision 191/3, a meeting was held in December 2010 with the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Seven Partner States to establish through a Letter of Understanding (LoU), a working relationship between the Seven Partner States and ICAO AFI Plan to accelerate the implementation of the priority actions agreed by the Seven Partner States.

1.5 However, the implementation of the priority actions agreed were delayed due to the prevailing political situation in the region.

1.6 A review meeting was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 18 to 19 March 2012 between the Directors General of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the Seven Partner States and ICAO. The meeting approved a revised Work Plan for the implementation of the support project with new timelines for the development, approval of the frameworks and establishment of the regional organizations (RSOO and RAIA). Also, the States formed a High Level Review Task Force (HLRTF) to spearhead the development of the frameworks of the two regional organizations.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSISTANCE PROJECT TO THE SEVEN PARTNER STATES

2.1 To initiate the implementation of the priority actions, data was collected through questionnaires and the information was used to develop the general frameworks of the RSOO which included the Legal, Organizational and Financial frameworks. Subsequently, a protocol that detailed the legal framework for the establishment of the RSOO in the Seven Partner States was also developed.

2.2 Furthermore, due to the legal status of the RSOO and probable change in its membership structure currently and in the future, a proposal was developed to give a specific name designation to the RSOO.

2.3 The frameworks, protocol and name designations were sent out to the Seven Partner States for review and comments prior to the High Level Review Task Force and the Directors General meetings scheduled from 9 to 13 June 2013 in Khartoum, Sudan. However, letters of regret to attend the meeting were received from the majority of the Seven Partner States and the meetings were postponed.

2.4 Subsequently new dates were proposed for 25 to 29 August 2013 in Khartoum, Sudan. The majority of the States however again indicated their inability to attend. The meetings have therefore been postponed.

3. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 The Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) General Assembly made a decision in 2012 to conduct a study on the establishment of an RSOO(s) for the benefit of the ACAC and States accredited to the ICAO Middle East (MID) Regional Office.

3.2 The DGCA-MID/2, which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 20 to 22 May 2013, endorsed the Strategy for the establishment of a RSOO(s) and agreed that ICAO will support ACAC in conducting a study on the establishment of a RSOO(s) for the ACAC and ICAO Middle East (MID) Regional Office States.

3.3 The study will identify the needs and requirements of the States in terms of safety oversight, safety management training and available resources. It will also explore and propose possible scenarios for the establishment of sub-regional aviation safety or safety oversight organizations with a logical grouping of States taking into consideration the economic, political and technical factors.

3.4 During the study activities to be covered under the sub-regional safety organizations as well as the level and timelines for the transfer of the involved functions will be identified. Subsequently detailed frameworks in terms of purpose, objectives, activities, expected results or outcomes, resources and sustainable funding will be developed for the establishment of the RSOO(s).

4. WAY FORAWRD

4.1 As three of the member States (Egypt, Libya and Sudan) may join another RSOO ref. paragraph 3 and the continued challenging political situation in and among most of the remaining States it will be practical to delay the formation of an RSOO for the remaining Partner States namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

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