

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: August 2004 to April 2005

Advocacy work and activities undertaken in support of African development

Steps have been taken to involve the African Development Bank and other multilateral and bilateral funding partners in the funding of the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP) projects in West and Central Africa.

In the pursuit of its primary objective which is to **improve safety, security and efficiency of air transport**, ICAO has initiated and implemented awareness creating seminars and workshops in the fields of air transport facilitation, statistics and economics, aviation safety and security, and search and rescue that provide practical support to the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Air Transport in Africa. ICAO has also initiated projects that support the implementation of the Decision through the strengthening of the capacity of civil aviation administrations to manage the liberalization process. Such capacity building projects include the introduction of the TRAINAIR methodology at national and regional civil aviation training centres. The goal of the TRAINAIR Programme is to improve safety and efficiency of air transport through the establishment and maintenance of high standards of training and competency for aviation personnel on a worldwide basis and in a cost effective manner. The ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau is currently working with the “École Africaine de la Météorologie et de l’Aviation civile”, Niamey, Niger; the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Zaria, Nigeria and the Civil Aviation Training Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in the establishment of TRAINAIR Course Development Units within these training centers.

Improved aviation security supports the NEPAD priority areas of peace and security, encourages the use of aviation in the area of tourism to enhance Africa's integration into the global economy, and nurtures increased investment in improving infrastructure in the Transport priority sector. Under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), nine aviation security audits of African States were conducted during the period August 2004 to April 2005. This brings the total number of audited African States to 23 since the Programme was launched in November 2002.

Assistance in the form of workshops and seminars, services and funds is provided to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC). There is also cooperation with the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) that has implications for some African countries.

Search and rescue (SAR) rehabilitation in the African region: The implementation of an efficient search and rescue (SAR) system is a fundamental obligation of all ICAO Contracting States. In consideration of shortcomings in the SAR services provided by most African States, AFCAC and ICAO undertook to implement a major project to upgrade SAR services in Africa. The project was ratified in January 2002 by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to which ICAO, AFCAC and the Government of France are signatories. Through 2003 and 2004, nineteen States in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) region requested and received a SAR evaluation mission. The missions, where appropriate, have been conducted cooperatively with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and have stressed the benefits of regional organisation, specific enabling and implementing legislation and close aviation/maritime/military cooperation. The evaluation reports comprise a detailed analysis of all aspects of State SAR services and present comprehensive, practical recommendations that States may either implement internally or, at their request, in cooperation with ICAO SAR experts at no cost. By the end of 2004, the project had also organized four SAR training sessions in which 60 African operational personnel had been trained as SAR mission coordinators at almost no cost to their respective administrations. The goal of the project is to have all AFI Contracting States in full compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices and could be significantly assisted by being more closely integrated into the NEPAD framework.

Collaboration with other UN agencies

ICAO is collaborating with the World Bank in COSCAP which is a capacity building programme in aviation safety oversight being implemented with the support of sub-regional organizations - the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

In addition, ICAO continues to provide technical support to the airports and airfields rehabilitation programme of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Although this project is not directly linked to NEPAD, the rehabilitation of aviation infrastructure in the post-war Democratic Republic of the Congo is in line with NEPAD short term action plan projects in infrastructure development.

The ICAO Eastern and Southern African Office in Dakar collaborates with other UN agencies based in Kenya on various matters of common interest including support for NEPAD through the Office of the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator.

Financial and technical support for NEPAD programmes and projects

ICAO is assisting in the mobilization of resources from the ICAO International Financing Facility for Aviation Safety (IFFAS) for the COSCAP projects as well as other aviation safety related

projects.