

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

The ICAO audits continue to make a positive contribution to the enhancement of aviation safety and security, and to the development of national aviation expertise in audited States. In order to familiarize African States with the audit process, ICAO launched a series of workshops addressing the preparation, conduct and reporting of audits under the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP). A USOAP workshop was held in Morocco in December 2008, followed by an ICAO USAP auditor certification course in Morocco, from 24 February to 5 March 2009.

The ICAO USAP completed its first cycle of audits in December 2007, including audits of 42 African States. A second cycle of audits commenced in January 2008 focusing on a State's capability to provide appropriate national oversight of its aviation security activities. In addition to audits conducted under the USAP, a programme of follow-up visits was initiated in 2005 in order to validate the implementation of State corrective action plans and to provide support to States in remedying identified deficiencies. During the reporting period, follow-up visits were conducted for six African States, the majority of which demonstrated significant improvements in the implementation of ICAO Annex 17 – Security, Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). ICAO has established a mechanism to assist those States that were unable to demonstrate such improvement. ICAO, through its Implementation Support and Development Programme, continues to facilitate the provision of assistance to States for the purpose of resolving the deficiencies found in the ICAO safety oversight and security audits.

In follow-up to the ICAO Conference on the development of the African Aviation Security Roadmap held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2007, a detailed work programme was developed for implementation by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC). The work programme detailed the initiation of a regionalized Aviation Security (AVSEC) infrastructure to include the development of regional regulations and procedures. AVSEC training has also been included in the work programme to enhance regional human resources and to assist in the development of oversight systems at the national and/or regional levels.

The four Aviation Security Training Centres (ASTCs) located in Casablanca, Dakar, Johannesburg and Nairobi host the regional training courses administered by ICAO and additionally conduct local and regional training. To directly respond to the deficiencies identified during the USAP audit process, assistance workshops, including National Civil Aviation Security Programme, National Quality Control, National Screener Certification Programme, National Training Programme, Airport Security Programme

and Aviation Security Training Package (ASTP), National Inspectors courses are offered. The E-learning based AVSEC Professional Management Course, delivered jointly by ICAO and Concordia University in Montreal continues to ensure that participants are fully knowledgeable in aviation security and relevant fields.

ICAO continues to cooperate with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) through regular ICAO aviation security involvement in CTC on-site visits to assess States' compliance with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001). Improved aviation security in turn supports the NEPAD priority areas of peace and security, encourages the use of aviation in the NEPAD priority area of tourism and nurtures increased investment in improving infrastructure in the transport priority sector.

The objective of the ICAO USOAP is to promote global aviation safety through auditing Contracting States, to determine States' capability for safety oversight by assessing the effective implementation of the critical elements of a safety oversight system and the status of States' implementation of safety-relevant ICAO SARPs, associated procedures, guidance material and safety-related practices. During the reporting period, six safety oversight audits of African States were conducted, bringing the total number of audits in Africa to thirty-nine.

A Special Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation (AFI RAN) Meeting held in South Africa, in November 2008, offered an opportunity to strengthen region-wide commitment to addressing critical safety issues and developing a comprehensive work programme for the implementation of air navigation facilities and services. In particular, the Meeting committed to a regional approach towards implementation of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), based on agreed performance framework forms. This meeting also served as a platform for cooperation, bringing together States at political and technical levels, as well as service providers and users.

During the reporting period, ICAO focused its activities in the field of aviation medicine on the topic of pandemic preparedness planning. A paper was presented at the Special AFI RAN Meeting concerning the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease by Air Transport (CAPSCA) project. The project aims to mitigate the effects of an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a serious public health risk, such as pandemic influenza, by assisting States to establish a preparedness plan for aviation. The project provides training, as well as evaluations of international airports against the ICAO guidelines for States and the revised World Health Organization International Health Regulations.

To assist States in the AFI region to conduct the Gap Analysis exercises required before developing corrective action plans, in accordance with the principles of the GASP and the associated Global Aviation Safety Roadmap (GASR), ICAO has closely cooperated with the Industry Safety Strategy Group to conduct a number of GASR workshops in the various regions of the continent. The first such workshop

was held in Nigeria, in April 2008, followed by similar workshops in Tanzania, in August 2008, Burkina Faso, in November 2008 and Mozambique, in December 2008.

ICAO is vigorously pursuing a programme of assistance to African States as a result of several conclusions reached at the Air Transport Symposium of ICAO which took place in Nigeria, in April 2008. Assistance rendered throughout 2009 and 2010 is expected to be in the areas of air transport regulation and liberalization, management and economics of airports and air navigation services, economic analyses and databases and environmental protection.

An African Airlines Association (AFRAA)/ICAO meeting on civil aviation statistics was held in Ethiopia, in October 2008, with the objective to: demonstrate the impact of data collection and analysis on improving efficiency of airlines, airports and air navigation service providers; address the long-standing problem of obtaining statistics for Africa; review how the best Member States would be able to collect and disseminate civil aviation data and their experiences on this issue; and introduce the participants to the on-line version of the integrated statistical database at the ICAO secure site and the commercial site, www.icaodata.com

ICAO, in coordination with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), held the first ICAO Regional Seminar on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs), Biometrics and Security Standards in April 2009 in Nigeria. The Seminar served as a venue for meeting those African States that may require assistance to comply with Standard 3.10 of Annex 9 before the 1 April 2010 deadline, as well as with UN Security Council Resolution 1373, 2(g).

The two new area navigation (RNAV) routes implemented in September 2007 with the utilization of satellite navigation systems instead of ground-based navigation aids are operational. In October 2008 the ICAO Regional Office, in Dakar, Senegal, organized an air routes implementation coordination meeting to consider the implementation of new oceanic air routes between the AFI and SAM regions, at which a pilot project proposed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the implementation of an required navigation performance (RNP) 10 route (LV/EMTAL/LOKIM) was agreed to subject to appropriate approval, the conducting of trial flights and other pre-implementation actions required.

ICAO activities in the field of Aerodromes, in 2009, will be mainly focused on assistance for implementation of ICAO aerodrome certification requirements in African States. The APIRG/16 meeting had identified among the reasons for the low level of implementation of these requirements in the AFI region, the lack of regulatory framework and certification procedures due, inter-alia, to inadequate expertise and inability to attract and train qualified staff. The need for more assistance to States in organizing training courses for aerodrome inspectors was recognized and emphasized. To this effect, two major events are being organized: a regional Aerodrome Certification workshop (Casablanca, May 2009), and a joint Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)/ICAO course for the training of aerodrome inspectors (October 2009).

In support of the current aviation safety, security and efficiency initiatives within the African continent, a symposium was also organized in Seychelles by ICAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Travel and Tourism of Seychelles and the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade, in October 2008. This symposium provided African States with a forum where information and knowledge concerning existing and emerging technologies was presented, and made a number of recommendations with the objectives *inter alia* to strengthen a region-wide commitment to resolving deficiencies, addressing critical issues and developing a comprehensive work programme for the implementation of air navigation facilities and services.

ICAO continued to provide support in the area of aviation safety through various technical cooperation projects, such as the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP). The COSCAP projects, which are at different stages are being implemented with the support of the various regional and sub-regional Economic Communities throughout the continent (i.e. Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)). Activities of the ICAO ACIP programme are partly centered around these COSCAP State groupings. The establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organizations and Accident Investigation Agencies will receive focused attention in 2009. In this regard, and as a pilot case, it is anticipated that all preparations will be completed for the Banjul Accord Group Regional Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO) and Regional Accident Investigation Agency (BAGAAIA), to be launched in the third quarter of 2009.

Implementation of a sub-regional project for Cooperation in the Development of aviation Meteorological services, prepared in collaboration with nine participating States in Western and Central Africa, commenced in the first half of 2009. The project, which is aimed at improving Meteorological infrastructure and services in the concerned African States, received funding approval from the governing body of the ICAO IFFAS in January 2009. The impact of the project would be the removal of safety related aviation meteorology deficiencies and overall improvement of air navigation safety in 17 Member States of the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) and nine participating States in Africa (Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone).