

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: January 2004 to present

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

1. Facilitating and promoting South-South cooperation;

ICAO encourages frequent exchange of views, ideas and experiences between States within the African Region bilaterally, sub-regionally/regionally on issues relating to development and management of civil aviation. Exchange of technical competencies between States is also encouraged. Cooperation between African States in the operation of airlines, including the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, is also spearheaded by the Organization.

2. Promoting coordination and coherence in support of NEPAD priorities;

ICAO is a technical organization dealing with civil aviation matters. Its priorities and the type of coordination it undertakes focus on the safety, security and efficiency of air transport. Although not related directly to NEPAD, the Organization's activities provide practical support to the overall objectives and priorities of NEPAD.

3. Supporting simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures as a means of enhancing support for NEPAD;

ICAO provides the forum for effective air navigation planning and implementation processes through the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG). Again, although not directly related to NEPAD priorities, these regional

coordination processes provide practical support to the overall objectives of NEPAD.

4. Supporting and strengthening sub-regional consultation mechanisms as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination for NEPAD at the regional level;

5. Supporting and strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations in their ability and capacity to support conflict prevention, management as well as peace building programmes;

ICAO continues to provide direct technical support to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) to enable it to provide the desired coordination and consultation that are essential for the development and implementation of African civil aviation and air transport policies, plans and programmes. Indirect support is also provided to sub-regional organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Areas of support for NEPAD

1. Governance – political, economic and corporate

ICAO continues to offer guidance material, training and technical cooperation activities on the efficient re-structuring and management of civil aviation administrations with a view to ensuring that they are autonomous and self-financing.

2. Peace and security

ICAO continues to promote the security of civil aviation pursuant to the High-level, Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security, held at ICAO Headquarters on 19 and 20 February 2002, and in conformity with the ICAO Security Audit Programme. In this regard, aviation security audits have been carried out in 11 African States, and a total of 19 African States are expected to have been audited by the end of 2004.

3. Infrastructure (transportation, energy, water and sanitation, ICTs)

ICAO continues to play the leading role in rationalizing, harmonizing, implementing and integrating the Regional Air Navigation Plan for Africa. In addition, ICAO continues to provide assistance to African States in the Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) implementation in Africa.

4. Human resources development (health, education)

ICAO continues to design, implement and promote civil aviation oriented human resources development in Africa. A number of African States are party to the ICAO TRAINAIR Programme.

5. Environment

Environmental protection is an important part of the ICAO work programme, with a particular focus on aircraft noise and on the impact of aircraft engine emissions, finding an appropriate balance between the future growth of air transport and the adverse effects that it can create.

Financial contribution of ICAO to NEPAD

Currently, ICAO does not make direct financial support to NEPAD, but can

participate in programmes and projects financed through NEPAD.

Contribution of ICAO to strengthening the response to NEPAD

Assistance by ICAO on air transport economic regulation in support of the implementation of NEPAD would mostly take the form of conducting workshops and seminars and the development of policy guidance. Due to limited resources, no workshops and seminars were held in Africa in the past year. Nonetheless, it is envisaged that one or two seminars will be conducted in 2005. However, indirect assistance in this subject area was provided through attendance and making presentations at meetings of regional air transport organizations. Furthermore, globally developed policy guidance on the liberalization of international air transport and advice and assistance on its implementation continued to be provided and used by African governments.

In the field of airport and route facility management, ICAO provides advice and guidance material to assist states in Africa to develop and better manage their airports and air navigation facilities through seminars and workshops conducted in Africa on airports and air navigation services economics. Guidance material in this particular field of the transportation sector is also provided.

ICAO's Technical Co-operation Bureau (TCB) has been involved in developmental activities that are in the framework of NEPAD. Initiatives are currently underway to pursue the direct involvement of TCB in NEPAD activities through the African Development Bank.

The following is an update of NEPAD-related activities by TCB:

a. Implementation of the project on the Sub-Regional Upper Airspace Control Centre for the three East African Community (EAC) States of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania has been deferred while the States are exploring alternative funding sources and implementation mechanism.

b. A global navigation satellite system (GNSS) project for the Democratic Republic of the Congo is planned to be implemented during the current year.

c. The West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Banjul Accord Group Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programmes (COSCAPs) are also planned to start implementation during 2004. The SADC COSCAP was considered for approval by the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers which met in Botswana from 14 to 18 June 2004.

TCB continues to be involved in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) infrastructure reconstruction project in that State.

ICAO has also been active in the fields of improvement of safety and security of air navigation in States, reducing the number of aircraft accidents on the continent, encouraging the development of air transport to meet the requirement of the traveling public.