English Version

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

AFI COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION
SECURITY AND FACILITATION IN AFRICA
(AFI SECFAL PLAN)

TWELFTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
(**Nairobi, Kenya, 2023**)

Agenda Item: Report on the status of implementation of the 10th RASFALG AFI Meeting
Recommendations, Activities, and the Operationalization of the AFI-CES Cooperative Scheme

(Presented by the African Civil Aviation Commission)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This paper presents a comprehensive report on the implementation of the recommendations from the 10th RASFALG-AFI, with a particular focus on key areas such as enhancing communication tools and response rate among African states, intensifying partnerships and programs of cooperation in aviation security. It also covers aviation security technical assistance activities, the operationalization of the AFI-CES cooperative scheme, the new initiative on the creation of AFCAC AVSEC working groups and sub-groups, as well as the one-stop security arrangements initiative. Additionally, it discusses a trial project for the implementation of one-stop security. The proposed actions, as outlined in Paragraph 9, are put forward for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Tenth Session of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group (RASFALG-AFI/10) for Africa and the Indian Ocean Region was convened in Dakar, Senegal on December 14th and 15th, 2022. The meeting was the first in-person (physical) session convened by the group since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

2. **PARTICIPATION**

The meeting was attended by **ninety-three (93) participants** from **thirty-four (34) AFCAC member States**, **two (2) ICAO Aviation Security Training Centers (ASTC)**, **ERNAM Dakar Senegal and Tanzania**, and **nine (9) International and Regional organizations** (namely; **African Airlines Associations (AFRAA)**, **Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO)**, **European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC)**, **International Air transport Association (IATA)**, **Airports Council International (ACI-Africa)**, **Transport Security Administration (TSA -US)**, **Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA-EAC)**, **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and **African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)**.

Mr. Prosper Zo'o Minto'o, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Regional Director for West and Central Africa (WACAF), **Mr. Sidi GUEYE**, Director General of the National Civil Aviation and Meteorology Agency of Senegal (ANACIM), and **Ms. Adefunke ADEYEMI**, Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), presided over the opening ceremony of the session.

Ms. Jane Nakimu, Vice President of the Regional Aviation Security and Facilitation Group and representative of the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, presided over the meeting representing the Group's President, **Ms. Barbara Souffe** of the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority who was unavoidably absent.

The Gambia and Democratic Republic of Congo were unanimously elected as first and second rapporteurs, respectively.

3. SCOPE OF THE MEETING

The meeting encompassed a comprehensive range of seventeen (17) presentations, engaging in in-depth discussions and deliberations on various topics. The presentations covered the following areas:

- Progress on the Implementation of the Recommendations and Activities of the 9th RASFALG-AFI Meeting (AFCAC);
- Progress on the Implementation of the Decisions and Recommendations of the 11th AFI SECFAL Plan Steering Committee (ICAO);
- Status of Implementation of the new Windhoek Targets (AFCAC);
- Report on the AFCAC assistance activities (presented by AFCAC);
- Assistance activities for Benin: Sharing of experiences and results (Benin Civil Aviation Authority);
- USAP- CMA results in Africa (ICAO);
- ICAO Annex 17 – Aviation Security Amendment 18 (ICAO);
- Correlation analysis between the level of implementation of Windhoek Targets and the USAP-CMA results (AFCAC);
- 2023 AFCAC Assistance activities: Program and challenges (AFCAC);
- Report on the Implementation of AFI SECFAL Plan Assistance Activities/Projects (ICAO);
- 41st Assembly AVSEC Security and Facilitation resolutions (ICAO);
- Updates on the ACI-Africa Programs (ACI Africa);
- ECAC activities and CASE II project activities (ECAC);
- AFCAC-TSA Cooperation;
- Latest developments (AFRAA);
- Latest AVSEC developments (CASSOA); and
- ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC) Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

These presentations covered a wide range of topics, providing valuable insights into important aspects of aviation security and capacity building.

4. FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GROUP

4.1 Enhancing Communication Tools and Response Rate:

In accordance with the recommendations put forth by the RASFALG Group, AFCAC has diligently worked towards the development, reinforcement, and maintenance of its newly established **Point of Contacts (PoC) platform**. This has involved designating focal points and conducting online tests to ensure its effectiveness.

Furthermore, AFCAC has leveraged web-based solutions, including surveys, to foster improved communication, interaction, and response rates to AFCAC State letters, surveys as well as enhance participation in AFCAC events.

The response from member states regarding the new communication process has been highly positive, with a remarkable level of engagement, active interactions, and extensive participation. Notably, the surveys conducted, such as those on capacity-building program needs, the status of Windhoek implementation, and the designation or amendment of the AFI-CES experts list, have received encouraging levels of response.

In an effort to bolster its capacity to monitor the needs of member states, foster collaboration with partners, and provide robust analysis of the Windhoek declaration's implementation status and its associated targets, AFCAC has recently launched new online surveys. These surveys are aimed at gathering comprehensive data, sharing insights with partners, and identifying potential future cooperation programs for the benefit of AFCAC member states.

Overall, these advancements in communication tools and the notable response rate reflect AFCAC's ongoing commitment to effective communication, collaboration, and data-driven decision-making.

4.2 Intensification of Partnerships and programs of Cooperation in Aviation security:

A key objective of the efforts in intensifying Partnerships and programs of Cooperation in Aviation security has been to improve states' compliance with the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) outlined in ICAO Annex 17, the security-related SARPs of ICAO Annex 9, and the implementation of the Windhoek Targets. AFCAC has dedicated substantial efforts to enhancing these activities, broadening their implementation, and facilitating additional partnerships between states in need of assistance and providers of such assistance.

AFCAC's Aviation Security Assistance and Capacity Building Activities are based on the specific aviation security needs identified by member states. These needs inform the development of an activity program, which is formulated in collaboration with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and RSOOs (Regional Safety Oversight Organizations) during annual coordination meetings with the assisted states. The program also involves the participation of other assistance providers, including regional organizations, other member states, and, where applicable, industry stakeholders. By fostering regional cooperation in the field of aviation security assistance, AFCAC aims to mobilize resources and capabilities, facilitate assistance partnerships, promote information exchange, and instill confidence in security programs and measures.

Activities under the AfDB project "Institutional Support to the AFCAC for the Implementation of the SAATM"

Within the SAATM Project framework, a range of successful assistance and capacity-building initiatives were carried out for the SAATM States based on the predefined criteria for selecting beneficiary States. **The African Development Bank (AfDB)** provided the necessary financing for these activities.

The following States received assistance through these activities: **Benin, Lesotho, Mozambique, Guinea, Republic of Congo, Chad, and Gambia**.

Furthermore, before the year ends assistance activities are scheduled to be conducted for the following States i.e., the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Central African Republic, and Zimbabwe**.

4.2.1 AFI SECFAL Plan Technical Assistance Activities

Since its inception in 2015 in Maputo, Mozambique, the AFI SECFAL Plan has demonstrated significant progress under the guidance of the Steering Committee (SC), with invaluable support from the ICAO Secretariat and AFCAC. This progress reflects the commitment and dedication of all stakeholders involved.

To ensure the continuous provision of assistance and support initiatives in alignment with the Plan's objectives, ICAO and AFCAC encouraged donor States to scale up their voluntary contributions. These contributions, both in terms of in-kind assistance and financial resources, are crucial in meeting the needs of African States. They enable the deployment of experts, the provision of targeted training programs, and tailored assistance to address the specific challenges faced by AFI States. Recognizing the effectiveness and importance of the Plan, the Steering Committee of the Plan has endorsed its extension beyond the current phase, allowing the program to continue until 2030.

The ongoing support provided by the RASFALG-AFI and the establishment of the AFI Cooperative Experts Scheme (AFI-CES) exemplify AFCAC's commitment to enhancing the implementation of the AFI SECFAL Plan. These initiatives play a vital role in driving the achievement of the Plan's objectives and promoting a robust aviation security framework within the AFI region.

Close cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between AFCAC and ICAO are fundamental to effectively implement the work program. By working together, addressing deficiencies, avoiding duplication of efforts, and optimizing available resources, more efficient assistance activities can be delivered.

During the annual coordination meetings with ICAO and through State letters to the project secretariat, AFCAC consistently emphasizes the need for financing assistance activities, particularly for non-SAATM States. This is due to the absence of a dedicated budget within AFCAC's regular budget, as well as the absence of specific programs catering to these States, such as the AFCAC-AfDB project for SAATM States. Despite these coordination efforts, AFCAC has encountered challenges in securing funds to assist States, particularly non-SAATM States, and fulfill their requests for support.

The need to close this funding gap that delays technical assistance to needy States cannot be stressed enough. There is a need to establish clear mechanisms for sharing voluntary funds allocated to Africa among African institutions and to explore alternative funding sources or mechanisms to ensure adequate support for States specifically non-SAATM. This sharing of funds would facilitate timely responses to requests for assistance activities and urgent capacity-building needs of states, particularly in preparation for ICAO audits. It is important to acknowledge the challenges faced by AFCAC in supporting non-Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) states due to the absence of dedicated programs with partners and a separate budget from AFCAC's regular budget.

By collectively addressing these challenges, we can strengthen aviation security across the AFI region and foster sustainable development in the aviation sector.

4.2.2 AFCAC-ECAC Cooperation

AFCAC and the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), as the implementing body of the European Union funded CASE Project, have organized:

- Interregional Workshop on Security and Facilitation-Border Security from 10 to 11 May 2023 in **Togo (Participation of 41 AFCAC member States)**.
- Workshop on the Impact of Covid-19 on Aviation Security **(Participation of 33 AFCAC member States)**;
- Interregional workshop on Innovation and Cybersecurity, September 2023, **Marrakesh, Morocco**; **(Participation of 40 AFCAC member States)**;
- Regional workshop on evaluation and certification of security equipment November 2023 **Kigali, Rwanda (Participation of 40 AFCAC member States)**;
- Two Training courses on covert and overt testing of Aviation Security measures **(Participation of 25 AFCAC members States)**;
- One training course on covert and overt testing for **Liberia**;
- Best practices for national auditors – Level 2 for **Angola** from 23 to 25 January 2023;
- Best practices in overt testing for **Mozambique** from 13 to 17 February 2023;
- MANPADS for **Madagascar** from 06 to 17 March 2023;
- Best practices in risk assessment for **Zambia** from 13 to 15 March 2023;
- Best practices in overt testing for **Zambia** from 15 to 18 May 2023; and
- Best practices in risk assessment for **Malawi** from 05 to 07 June 2023;

4.2.3 AFCAC-TSA Partnership

AFCAC and the United States Government have established a cooperative partnership under the United States Counter Terrorism Assistance (ATA) program. The primary objective of this collaboration is to provide essential training courses to African States, aiming to minimize vulnerabilities, establish robust security programs, enhance oversight of security operations, and cultivate leadership at airports designated as Last Points of Departure (LPDs) to the United States.

Initially, the ATA program was limited to Senegal and a few specifically requested States. However, through AFCAC's persuasive efforts, the two US agencies responsible for the program's implementation agreed to expand the scope of the project beyond the initial framework of cooperation. This achievement demonstrates AFCAC's determination to broaden the program's reach and benefit a larger number of States.

Under this collaborative initiative, the following training courses have been successfully delivered:

May – June, 2022: Airport Physical Security, Airport Patrol Management and Airport Security Management;

August – September, 2022: Audit and Inspection Techniques, Excellence in Screening Techniques and Insider Risk with Random and Unpredictability;

4.2.4 AFCAC-Qatar Civil Aviation Authority Cooperation

AFCAC and the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority jointly organized a training course on "Security Crisis Management." The course was held in Doha, Qatar. This program demonstrated a strong commitment to capacity-building efforts, with the participation of 19 African experts representing 19 member states. The course aimed to enhance expertise in managing security crises within the aviation sector, addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by AFCAC member states.

4.2.5 AFCAC-Singapore Civil Aviation Authority

AFCAC, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) organized a virtual training course titled "Security Risk Assessment and Developing Security

Programmes." The course was well-received, with 24 participants representing 23 AFCAC member states in attendance.

Looking ahead, there are plans for another collaborative training course on **Auditing Techniques and Best Practices** in Aviation Security, scheduled to take place in October 2023. This upcoming course will be conducted jointly, aiming to further enhance the knowledge and skills of participants in the field of aviation security auditing.

Through these training initiatives, AFCAC and CAAS are actively promoting capacity-building and sharing expertise among AFCAC member states, fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement in aviation security practices.

5. OPERATIONALISATION OF THE AFI-CES SCHEME

The AFI Region boasts a robust pool of qualified AFI-CES experts, comprising a total of **97 experts designated from 33 AFCAC member states**, as established in the official Roster maintained by AFCAC.

To facilitate the effective deployment of the Cooperative Experts Scheme, AFCAC has developed a comprehensive set of working tools. These tools serve as practical guidelines for the implementation of the scheme, ensuring the provision of technical assistance to AFI states. The working tools consist of:

1. Policy and Procedures Manual for the Aviation Security and Facilitation Cooperative Experts Scheme,

2. Code of Conduct,

3. Aviation Security Technical Assistance Mission Report template,

4. Attendance Register template, and

5. Aviation Security Technical Assistance Evaluation Form.

These resources have been carefully crafted to provide a structured framework for the scheme's operationalization, maintaining high standards of professionalism and effectiveness.

In addition, it is worth highlighting the positive impact of the AFCAC-AfDB Project. Through this project, **Eleven (11) AFI-CES experts** from **Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, Cabo Verde, Guinea**, and **instructors from Mali and Cameroon**, facilitated by the **ERNAM Training Center**, were mobilized to provide ground support and technical assistance to **Mozambique, Lesotho, Gambia, Chad, the Republic of Congo, and Guinea**.

An orientation training course, conducted jointly with ICAO, will be organized before the end of the year specifically for the AFI-CES Experts. This training aims to further enhance their expertise and ensure their preparedness to effectively fulfil their roles within the Cooperative Experts Scheme.

6. NEW INITIATIVE ON THE CREATION OF AFCAC AVSEC WORKING GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS

AFCAC has recently initiated a groundbreaking effort to establish an Aviation Security Working Group (ASWG) aimed at addressing and enhancing aviation security throughout Africa. This collaborative platform brings together experts from members States, industry stakeholders and relevant organizations to develop comprehensive guidelines, best practices, and unified positions, ensuring the utmost levels of security in civil aviation.

The ASWG diligently focuses on multiple facets of aviation Security, encompassing threat assessment, risk management, security measures, and advancements in technology. As part of its structure, the ASWG will establish sub-groups dedicated to specific areas, including:

- Technical and Guidance Material Task Force

- Training Task Force

- Explosive Detection Equipment and Dogs Study Group

- Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation

- Behaviour Detection Study Group

- Immigration Group

Through these specialized sub-groups, the ASWG aims to foster expertise, foster knowledge exchange, and facilitate targeted efforts towards bolstering aviation security across Africa.

As of June 2023, the Aviation Security Working Group (ASWG) has successfully convened three meetings with the purpose of developing working papers for both the ICAO AVSEC Panel and the ICAO Cybersecurity Panel. These meetings served as crucial platforms for collaborative discussions and the formulation of comprehensive documents to contribute to the work of these esteemed panels.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE-STOP SECURITY IN AFRICA: RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENCE OF SECURITY MEASURES

On 23 and 24 November 2022, AFCAC jointly with ECAC, under the CASE II Project, organized a workshop on the Evaluation and Certification of Aviation Security Equipment. The process of evaluation, testing, maintenance and certification of aviation security equipment is an essential step leading to the recognition of security measures and helping in the implementation of the OSS.

On 15 December 2022, a promotion day on the concept of One Stop Security arrangements was organized by AFCAC. Eighty-seven (87) participants from 27 AFCAC members States and eleven (11) partners have participated in the promotion day. The event was an opportunity to:

- Share best practices and experiences of States, partners, industry and stockholders;
- Discuss the benefits of the OSS;
- The challenges on the implementation of OSS; and
- The recognition of security measures.

One-Stop Security Trial, was also an AFCAC initiative in order to promote and prepare States for the implementation of One-Stop Security in Africa. The project will cover Eastern, Western and Southern regions with a focus on Kenya to South Africa, Senegal to Togo, based on the volume of passenger and air cargo transportation and the consultations with the four States. The States were informed by State letters of the need to work on a bilateral basis in order to implement OSS.

8. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The Steering Committee is invited to:

a) Acknowledge and take note of the information presented in this Working Paper;

b) Acknowledge the actions undertaken thus far in the implementation of the RASFALG-AFI Group;

c) Encourage member states to actively participate and respond to the online surveys concerning capacity-building needs, the status of Windhoek target implementation, and the designation or amendment of AFI-CES Experts;

d) Recognize the importance of promoting the implementation of One-Stop Security in Africa and urge member states to prioritize its adoption;

e) Strongly recommend member states' active engagement and participation in the AFCAC Aviation Security Working Group and its Sub-Groups; and

f) Provide valuable guidance on establishing clear mechanisms for the equitable sharing among African institutions of the voluntary funds allocated to Africa.