



International Civil Aviation Organization

Regional Aviation Safety Group - Middle East

Fourth Meeting (RASG-MID/4)
(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 30 March - 1 April 2015)

Agenda Item 3: Regional Performance Framework for Safety

STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RSOO FOR THE MENA STATES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper provides a progress report on the study related to the establishment of RSOO(s) for the ACAC and ICAO MID States, in accordance with the Strategy for the establishment of RSOO(s) endorsed by the DGCA-MID/2 meeting.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- Initial Report of the RSOO Study

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ACAC/ICAO Seminar /Workshop, which was held in Rabat in December 2012, developed a strategy for the establishment of an RSOO. The Strategy was endorsed by the ACAC Executive Council and the DGCA-MID/2 meeting, in December 2012 and May 2013 respectively. The DGCA-MID/2 meeting also agreed that ICAO would support ACAC in the conduct of the RSOO Study.

1.2 Work begun on the study in January 2015, upon the hiring of a consultant. The results of the study will be presented to the DGCA-MID/3 meeting, Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The study was conducted on the basis of information from a number of sources, including ICAO and IATA, and from questionnaires that were sent out to the ACAC and ICAO MID States (MENA States). One questionnaire contained questions on the establishment of an RSOO and the other questionnaire required States to provide information on the development and implementation of their State Safety Programme (SSP).

2.2 In line with the agreed step-by-step approach to the study, a simplified questionnaire was sent to the MENA States so as to obtain their commitment to the study. A total of thirteen States completed the questionnaire. These States include Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen; and they

are called MENA group of States. The results of the Study were therefore, in part, based on the analysis of the responses received from States to the questionnaire. The consultant also analysed the results of the questionnaire sent to all MID States for the purpose of measuring the status of development and implementation of their SSP.

2.3 The Report of the Study includes mainly the following:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Review of Regional Environmental Factors
- Safety Oversight Status of the MENA Group of States
- Determining RSOO Objectives, Tasks and Functions
- Determining the RSOO Legal Framework
- Determining the Organizational Structure
- Determining the Financial Framework
- Future Activities and Work Plan

2.4 The Initial Report of the Study prepared by the Consultant was reviewed by ACAC and ICAO and accordingly a revised set of recommendations/proposals was presented to the ACAC/ICAO Workshop on the Initial Results of the Study on the Establishment of Regional Safety Oversight Organization(s), held in Rabat, Morocco, 23-24 March 2015.

2.5 The list of Proposals emanating from the RSOO Study and associated Future Activities and Work Plan, as updated and endorsed by the Workshop, are at **Appendices A and B**, respectively.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review and support the Proposals related to the establishment of RSOO-MENA; and
- b) encourage States to sign the Letter of Intent during the DGCA-MID/3 meeting, in order to expedite the start of the establishment phase of the RSOO-MENA (development of the business plan, financial plan, etc).

APPENDIX A

PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN RSOO FOR MENA STATES

- Proposal 1:** An RSOO for the MENA Group of States should be established.
- Proposal 2:** A minimum of five State signatories to the Letter of Intent for establishing the MENA RSOO is required to start the process of establishment.
- Proposal 3:** The primary objective of the RSOO should be to assist member States to develop and implement SSP (core service).
- Proposal 4:** The RSOO should also assist States to resolve safety oversight deficiencies, and thereby achieve compliance with international requirements (on demand services).
- Proposal 5:** The RSOO should have an advisory/consultative mandate, under which member States would hold it accountable for the performance of certain tasks and functions, whilst retaining their sovereign responsibilities.
- Proposal 6:** The RSOO should carry out a range of activities to support the implementation of SSP, in particular safety risk management, safety assurance and the establishment of an Acceptable Level of Safety Performance (ALoSP).
- Proposal 7:** With respect to safety oversight, the RSOO should carry out tasks and functions in the area of PEL, OPS, AIR, AGA and ANS.
- Proposal 8:** Safety oversight activities of the RSOO should include harmonization of regulations, development of guidance materials, the conduct of audits and inspections, training and consultancies.
- Proposal 9:** The RSOO should perform its duties and functions within the framework of the GASP by assisting its States to achieve the RASGs' safety objectives and targets.
- Proposal 10:** The RSOO should make regular reports on the status of its activities to the ACAC Safety Committee and the relevant RASGs.
- Proposal 11:** The MENA RSOO should be first established on the basis of an MOU/MOC/MOA.
- Proposal 12:** The establishment of the MENA RSOO on the basis of an MOU should not preclude its later transitioning to a formal inter-governmental agreement/treaty, if so decided by the RSOO's Board.
- Proposal 13:** The MOU should provide the RSOO with legal personality, thus enabling it to act independently.
- Proposal 14:** The MOU should be binding on the signatories to the agreement.
- Proposal 15:** The primary source of funding for the common core functions of the RSOO should be contributions made in equal amounts by member States.

Proposal 16: Funding for services provided on demand to individual States should be on the basis of fees to be charged to the beneficiary States (cost recovery basis).

Proposal 17: Both business and financial plans should be developed to support the establishment of the RSOO.

Proposal 18: In order to reduce cost, and when appropriate, the RSOO should use technical personnel seconded by States, the recruitment of short-term consultants and the implementation of an inspector sharing scheme.

APPENDIX B

FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING THE RSOO-MENA

- ❖ Signing Letter of Intent for establishing RSOO – June 2015
- ❖ Establishment of Steering Committee – June 2015
- ❖ Obtaining funding (US\$ 150,000) – October 2015 (to explore all possible sources)
- ❖ Recruitment of Consultant - January 2016
- ❖ Initial review of outputs by High Level Task Force (HLTF) – May 2016
- ❖ Approval of outputs by Steering Committee and signing of the MOU – June 2016
- ❖ Launch of RSOO (including recruitment of staff) – January 2017

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