



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Air Traffic Management Sub-Group

Fourth Meeting (ATM SG/4)
(Amman, Jordan, 29 April – 3 May 2018)

Agenda Item 3: Global and Regional Developments related to ATM and SAR

MID NCLB STRATEGY

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the MID NCLB Strategy and Muscat Declaration and encourage States to support the implementation of MID NCLB Plan of Actions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- DGCA-MID/4 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Council identified there is still a large discrepancy among States in the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). As a result, the ICAO “No Country Left Behind” (NCLB) Campaign was established by the Council to help ensure that SARPs implementation is better harmonized globally. To avoid this gap, ICAO should focus its activities on States lacking fundamental oversight capabilities for effective implementation of ICAO SARPs, particularly in the priority areas of safety, air navigation and efficiency, and security. Therefore, particular attention should be given to the assistance of those States with a higher safety and security risk.

1.2 In accordance with Assembly Resolution A39-23 “No Country Left Behind” (NCLB) Initiative, States should effectively implement ICAO’s Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies so that all States have safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally sound air transport systems which support sustainable development and socio-economic prosperity.

1.3 The meeting may wish to recall that the High-Level Briefing to DGCA’s and CEOs held in Doha, Qatar on 26 May 2016, was apprised of the ICAO NCLB Initiative and the means to achieve its objectives. In this regard, the meeting was briefed about the development of the MID Region NCLB Strategy/Plan, which aims at a new leadership approach to transform the way business is done through agreement with concerned States on specific and measureable outcomes, and clear definition of accountability for the achievement of the set goals. The meeting supported the development of the MID Region NCLB Strategy/Plan and agreed that it should be presented to the DGCA-MID/4 meeting, for endorsement.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The DGCA-MID/4 meeting (Muscat, Oman, 17-19 October 2017), based on the outcome of MIDANPIRG and RASG-MID meetings, reviewed and endorsed the MID Region NCLB Declaration (Muscat Declaration) and the MID Region NCLB Strategy at **Appendix A** through *DGCA-MID/4 CONCLUSION 4/1*.

2.2 The DGCA-MID/4 meeting urge States to coordinate with the ICAO MID Office the development/finalization of their NCLB Plan of Actions and encouraged States and Stakeholders to:

- a) coordinate with the ICAO MID Office for the provision of required assistance, in support to the MID Region NCLB Strategy;
- b) provide voluntary contributions to support the MID Region NCLB activities; and
- c) support the implementation of the MID Region NCLB Strategy.

2.3 The NCLB initiative seeks to improve implementation support delivery to States. Support, collaboration and assistance from States, international organizations, industry and other stakeholders are essential to the success of these ICAO efforts to ensure that no Country is left behind.

2.4 To ensure the success of the assistance/cooperation action, first ICAO need to have a deep understanding on the root causes for a State not been able to improve its level of implementation of SARPs. Once this is achieved, it is necessary to select the best candidates States for deploying technical assistance/cooperation projects that will produce a sustainable improvement of the USOAP Effective Implementation (EI).

2.5 The primary objectives of the NCLB initiative include:

- a) providing enhanced support for States in the effective implementation of ICAO's SARPs, plans and policies in a more coordinated, comprehensive and globally harmonized manner; and
- b) promoting the resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs) and significant security concerns (SSeCs), if any.

2.6 Means to achieve NCLB Objectives:

- a) advocating the benefits of aviation for States at the highest level;
- b) prioritizing assistance needs and assessing risks for each State;
- c) facilitating and supporting implementation of capacity-building initiatives;
- d) establishing and enhancing partnerships;
- e) mobilizing resources for aviation-related projects;
- f) developing implementation support tools and services; and
- g) monitoring and recognizing progress by States.

2.7 It is to be highlighted that the MID Region NCLB Strategy incorporates the previously agreed commitments of the Doha Declaration, and aims to foster the achievement of the regional targets. This will be achieved through:

- a) identification of States lacking fundamental oversight capabilities for effective implementation of ICAO SARPs;

- b) prioritization of States in term of provision of required assistance;
- c) selection of the best candidates States for deploying technical assistance/cooperation projects that will produce a sustainable improvement of the Effective Implementation (EI);
- d) proactive approach to foster political will and senior level commitment;
- e) agreement with concerned States, as part of specific Plan of Actions, on measurable outcomes and clear definition of accountability for the achievement of the set goals; and
- f) identification of Champions (State, ICAO or stakeholder) to provide required assistance.

2.8 With regard to the prioritization criteria, MID States would be classified in four (4) groups, as follows:

- 1- States with SSC;
- 2- States not audited or with EI below 60% ($EI < 60$);
- 3- States with EI between 60 and 70% ($60 \leq EI < 70$); and
- 4- States with EI over 70% ($EI \geq 70$).

2.9 Other criteria/factors should be considered for the provision of required NCLB assistance, during the development and implementation of the plans of actions, including but not limited to:

- a) State willingness/commitment to receive assistance;
- b) Security and political stability;
- c) EI per Area and per Critical Element (CE);
- d) Level of aviation activities in the State;
- e) Air navigation deficiencies (including the deficiencies related to aerodrome certification);
- f) Level of progress made by State in the development and implementation of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs);
- g) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita; and
- h) Ongoing or planned assistance projects.

2.10 The MID Region NCLB Strategy is composed of three (3) phases as follows:

Phase I – Selection: Selection of the best candidates States for deploying assistance that will produce a sustainable improvement of the EI.

Phase II – Plan of Actions: Development of State’s NCLB Plan of Actions, in coordination with concerned States and other stakeholders, as required.

Phase III – Implementation and Monitoring: Implementation of the agreed plan of actions in coordination with concerned stakeholders; and continuous monitoring of the implementation process to ensure the achievement of the agreed objectives and targets.

2.11 The meeting noted that the MID Region NCLB Implementation Plan is a companion document to the MID Region NCLB Strategy. It is a living document used for recording the NCLB activities in the MID Region (general and State by State), including the monitoring of the States' NCLB Plan of Actions and States/Stakeholders' contributions to support the NCLB initiative.

2.12 The meeting may wish to note that more than fifty (50) NCLB activities had been conducted by the ICAO MID Office in 2017 including support missions to States, meetings, courses, seminars and workshops.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage States to coordinate with the ICAO MID Office the development/finalization of their NCLB Plan of Actions and encourage States and Stakeholders to:

- a) coordinate with the ICAO MID Office for the provision of required assistance, in support to the MID Region NCLB Strategy;
- b) provide voluntary contributions to support the MID Region NCLB activities; and
- c) support the implementation of the MID Region NCLB Strategy.



**MID Region NCLB Declaration
(MUSCAT DECLARATION)**

19 October 2017

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DECLARATION

We, Directors General of Civil Aviation and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Civil Aviation Authorities in the ICAO Middle East (MID) Region, meeting in Muscat, Oman, 17-19 October 2017, on the occasion of the “Fourth meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation-Middle East (DGCA-MID/4)” organized by the Sultanate of Oman:

A. MINDFUL OF

1. The Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)
2. Assembly Resolution A39-23 related to the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative
3. Assembly resolutions, including A38-5, A38-11, A38-12, A38-15, A38-16, A38-17, and A33-9, urging States to increase the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)
4. Doha Declaration on Aviation Safety and Air Navigation in the MID Region (April 2015)
5. Riyadh Declaration on Aviation Security and Facilitation in the ACAC and ICAO MID Regions (August 2016)
6. Africa and Middle East Aviation Security Roadmap (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, August 2017)
7. Dubai Declaration on Cyber Security (April 2017)
8. MID Region Safety Strategy
9. MID Region Air Navigation Strategy
10. The findings of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) activities, which continue to indicate that many States experience difficulties in the implementation of ICAO SARPs
11. The different challenges and geopolitical and economic realities of the various member States accredited to the ICAO MID Regional Office

B. CONSIDERING THAT

1. All States should effectively implement ICAO’s Standards and Recommended Practices(SARPs) and policies so that all States have safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally sound air transport systems which support sustainable development and socio-economic prosperity, and which ultimately help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world
2. Due to a varying level of capacity to meet and sustain their compliance with SARPs, States are not always able to effectively implement SARPs in a timely manner at the rate in which they are adopted by ICAO
3. Further progress in improving civil aviation, including the efficient human and financial resources for the implementation of assistance activities that are tailored to the needs of individual States, is best

achieved through a cooperative, collaborative and coordinated approach in partnership with all stakeholders

4. The ICAO's Strategic Objectives are linked to 13 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
5. The successful implementation of the No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative will enhance States' air transport systems and align with the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

C. COMMENDING

1. ICAO for leading the ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative and their continued technical assistance to the ICAO MID States;
2. States and International Organizations providing voluntary in-kind and financial contributions to support the ICAO NCLB initiative and MID Region NCLB activities

D. AIMING TO

1. Establish arrangements for mutual cooperation in the promotion and development of civil aviation, in support of the ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative, in order to assist States in the MID Region to increase their Effective Implementation (EI) of ICAO SARPs
2. Foster political will, engagement at the highest level and accountability to expedite the implementation of the previously agreed commitments in the Doha Declaration to attain/achieve the regional safety and air navigation targets
3. Improve regional safety and security oversight capacity
4. Establish long-term partnerships between States based on win-win situations

D. UNDERTAKE TO

1. Urge States to actively participate in the ICAO MID Office activities to foster the effective implementation of ICAO SARPs and policies
2. Encourage States to take appropriate measures to further enhance their safety and security oversight capabilities and level of implementation of the ICAO SARPs, plans and policies, through the development and implementation of tailored NCLB plan of actions, contributing to the achievement of the regional performance targets
3. Urge States, the industry, financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders to coordinate and cooperate amongst themselves and through ICAO, and to support the implementation of assistance activities in line with the global and regional priorities established by ICAO, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts
4. Encourage States to include within their aviation infrastructure development projects, elements of training and capacity building aimed at strengthening their civil aviation authorities to enable an effective oversight of such infrastructure

5. Encourage States to establish partnerships with other States, industry, financial institutions, donors and other stakeholders through ICAO to enhance their civil aviation systems and oversight capabilities
6. Call upon States and relevant partners able to do so to provide States in need with financial and technical resources to assist them in enhancing their civil aviation systems by implementing SARPs and fulfilling their oversight responsibilities

E. DECIDE TO

1. Adopt the MID Region NCLB Strategy at **Attachment A**;
2. Provide necessary support and resources for the implementation of the MID Region NCLB Strategy.

Done and adopted in Muscat, Oman, on 18 October 2017



ICAO UNITING AVIATION

MID Region NCLB Strategy



First Edition
19 October 2017

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MID Region NCLB Strategy

1. Background

1.1 The ICAO Council identified that there is still a large discrepancy among States in the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). As a result, the ICAO “No Country Left Behind” (NCLB) Campaign was established by the Council to help ensure that SARPs implementation is better harmonized globally so that all States have access to the significant socio-economic benefits of safe and reliable air transport. To avoid this gap, ICAO should focus its activities on States lacking fundamental oversight capabilities for effective implementation of ICAO SARPs, particularly in the priority areas of safety, air navigation and efficiency, and security. Therefore, particular attention should be given to the assistance of those States with a higher safety and security risk.

1.2 ICAO should find the best way to reduce this gap and increase the regional Effective Implementation (EI), by providing more assistance to developing States, playing a more active coordination role between States and generating the political will to pool resources, participate in regional efforts, earmark voluntary funds and build capacities.

1.3 In accordance with Assembly Resolution A39-23 “No Country Left Behind” (NCLB) Initiative, States should effectively implement ICAO’s Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies so that all States have safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally sound air transport systems which support sustainable development and socio-economic prosperity, and which ultimately help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world. In addition, further progress in improving civil aviation, including the efficient human and financial resources for the implementation of assistance activities that are tailored to the needs of individual States, is best achieved through a cooperative, collaborative and coordinated approach in partnership with all stakeholders.

1.4 The ICAO No Country Left Behind (NCLB) initiative, which was launched in December 2014, aims at providing support to all States and in support of the five ICAO strategic objectives, for the resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs) and significant security concerns (SSeCs) and for an effective implementation of ICAO’s SARPs, policies, plans and programmes, in a globally-harmonized manner; promoting and implementing all ICAO’s assistance activities.

1.5 Through the NCLB initiative, ICAO resolves to be more effective in directly supporting all willing States that need assistance to develop and improve the aviation system by implementing ICAO’s global Standards and policies. In its role as an advocate for aviation, ICAO will work with States to ensure aviation be given greater importance in the context of development at the Country level.

1.6 The NCLB initiative seeks to improve implementation support delivery to States. Support, collaboration and assistance from States, international organizations, industry and other stakeholders is essential to the success of these ICAO efforts to ensure that no Country is left behind.

1.7 The ICAO MID Regional Office promotes and monitors the implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in 15 Member States of ICAO to which it is accredited.

1.8 The MID Region is faced with a wide variety of geopolitical diversity, airspace features, operational challenges and civil aviation capacity building issues.

1.9 To ensure the success of the assistance/cooperation actions, first ICAO needs to have a deep understanding on the root causes for a State not been able to improve its level of implementation of SARPs. Once

this is achieved it is necessary to select the best candidates States for deploying technical assistance/cooperation projects that will produce a sustainable improvement of the USOAP Effective Implementation (EI).

1.10 The design of an effective NCLB Strategy could only be possible by gathering enough information on the organization, structure, formal and informal hierarchy, cultural aspects, etc. This information could be considered as State Profile or as business intelligence, which might be needed for the development of necessary project document and to seek support from donors that might be interested in subsidizing the NCLB initiative.

2. Challenges for States

2.1 States continue to face various challenges regarding the implementation of ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), which impact a safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally sound air transport system.

2.2 In order to achieve the objectives of the NCLB Initiative, it is also important to identify and address the challenges facing States to implement ICAO policies, plans and SARPs. The followings are some of the main challenges common to many States in the MID Region:

- rapid and continuing growth of traffic in the MID Region, which places increased demand on airspace capacity and imposes an optimum utilization of the available airspace and airports;
- insufficient financial and human resources capacity;
- retention and training/re-training of personnel;
- changing environment with the development of new technologies and SARPs;
- existing deficiencies;
- political, governance, institutional and legal issues;
- States have other higher priorities than aviation; and
- emergencies – natural disasters, public health, civil unrest, etc.

3. Objectives

3.1 The success of the NCLB initiative will hinge on support and collaboration of resources of partners and donors and requires firm commitment from the States, involving both aviation and non-aviation sectors. One of the priorities of the NCLB is to garner the political will necessary to support aviation improvements. ICAO plays a leadership role in the aviation community to facilitate communication and coordination amongst key stakeholders regarding assistance activities. This will allow the continued growth of a safe, secure, efficient, economically viable and environmentally sound aviation system and well established development frameworks, at both the international and national levels, to engage in providing resources for the effective implementation of aviation global standards and policies.

3.2 The primary objectives of the NCLB initiative include:

- a) providing enhanced support for States in the effective implementation of ICAO's SARPs, plans and policies in a more coordinated, comprehensive and globally harmonized manner; and
- b) promoting the resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs) and significant security concerns (SSeCs), if any.

Means to achieve NCLB Objectives:

- advocate the benefits of aviation for States at the highest level;
- prioritize assistance needs and assessing risks for each State;
- facilitate and support implementing capacity-building initiatives;
- establishing and enhancing partnerships;
- mobilizing resources for aviation-related projects
- develop implementation support tools and services; and
- monitoring and recognizing progress by States.

Doha Declaration

3.3 The Doha Declaration, the MID Region Safety and Air Navigation Strategies defined regional performance targets for the monitoring of performance at the national and regional levels, aiming at enhancing safety and improving air navigation capacity and efficiency, through a cooperative, collaborative and coordinated approach in partnership with all stakeholders under the leadership of ICAO. Albeit, there was no specific requirements (what needs to be achieved) for each State to contribute to the achievement of the regional targets.

3.4 The MID Region NCLB Strategy incorporates the previously agreed commitments of the Doha Declaration, and aims to foster the achievement of the regional targets, including:

- regional average EI to be above 70% by 2020; and
- 11 States to have at least 60% EI by 2020.

3.5 This will be achieved through:

- identification of States lacking fundamental oversight capabilities for effective implementation of ICAO SARPs;
- prioritization of States in term of provision of required assistance;
- selection of the best candidates States for deploying technical assistance/cooperation projects that will produce a sustainable improvement of the Effective Implementation (EI);
- proactive approach to foster political will and senior level commitment;
- agreement with concerned States, as part of specific Plan of Actions, on measureable outcomes and clear definition of accountability for the achievement of the set goals; and
- identification of Champions (State, ICAO or stakeholder) to provide required assistance.

4. Prioritization of States in Safety

4.1 MID States are classified in four (4) groups, as follows:

- 1- States with SSC;
- 2- States not audited or with EI below 60% ($EI < 60$);
- 3- States with EI between 60 and 70% ($60 \leq EI < 70$); and
- 4- States with EI over 70% ($EI \geq 70$).

4.2 Other criteria/factors should be considered for the provision of required NCLB assistance, during the development and implementation of the plans of actions, including but not limited to:

- a) State willingness/commitment to receive assistance;
- b) Security and political stability;
- c) EI per Area and per Critical Element (CE);

- d) Level of aviation activities in the State;
- e) Air navigation deficiencies (including the deficiencies related to aerodrome certification);
- f) Level of progress made by State in the development and implementation of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs);
- g) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita; and
- h) Ongoing or planned assistance projects.

5. MID Region NCLB Strategy – Phases

5.1 The MID Region NCLB Strategy is composed of three (3) phases as follows:

Phase I – Selection: Selection of the best candidates States for deploying assistance that will produce a sustainable improvement of the EI, in accordance with agreed prioritization criteria; and communication with States (Executive Level) for the development and implementation of an NCLB Plan of Actions.

During this phase, the ICAO MID Office plays the main role in the selection of the best candidate States and ensuring necessary leadership, commitment, political will and accountability for the development and implementation of State’s NCLB Plan of Actions.

Phase II – Plan of Actions: Development of State’s NCLB Plan of Actions, in coordination with concerned States and other stakeholders, as required. This phase includes also the communication of the Plan of Action to the State Executive Level. The Plan of Actions should include measurable outcomes with specific timelines.

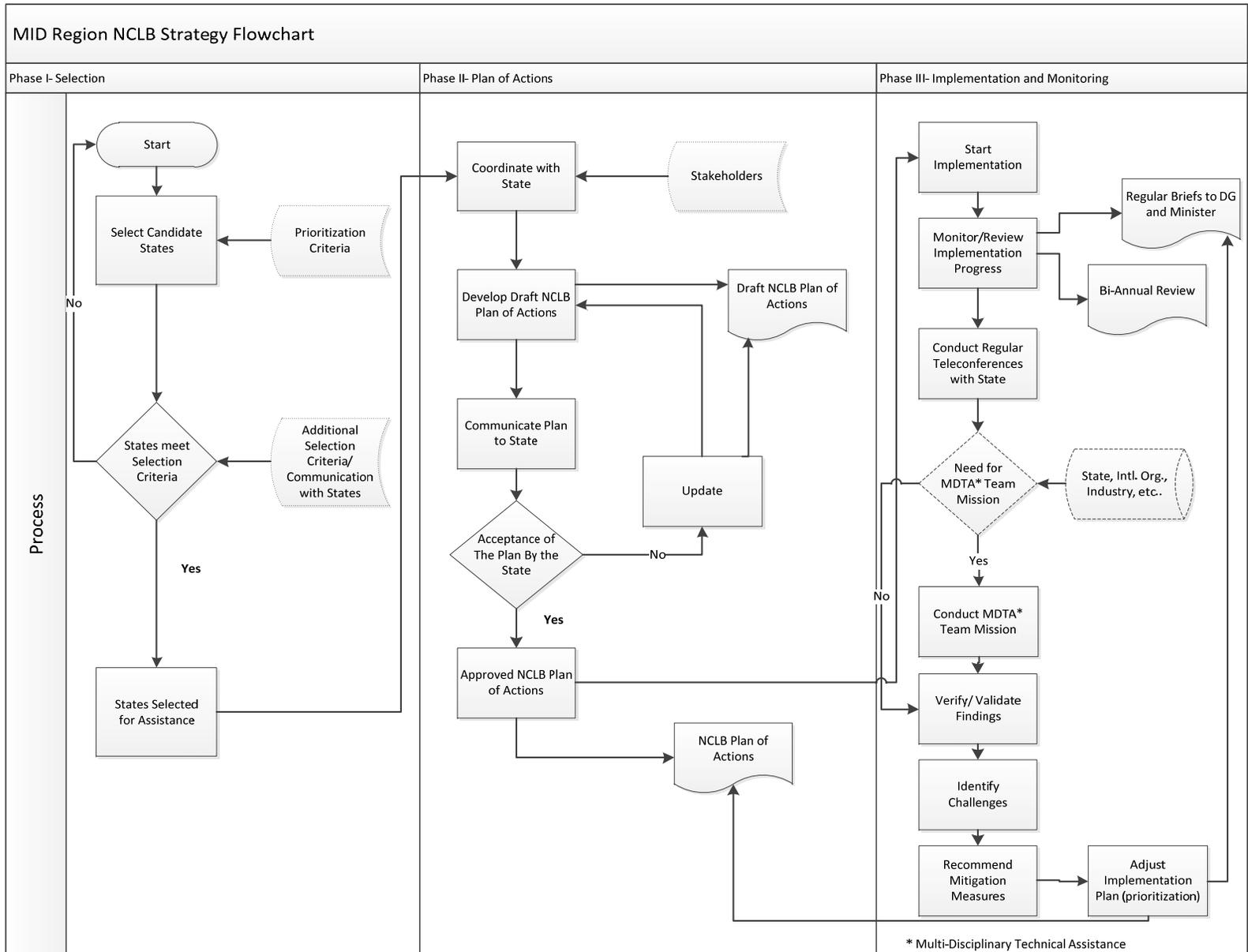
Phase III – Implementation and Monitoring: Implementation of the agreed plan of actions in coordination with concerned stakeholders; and continuous monitoring of the implementation process to ensure the achievement of the agreed objectives and targets.

The implementation of the different activities included in the Plan of Actions could be supported by different stakeholders. During the implementation process, visit(s) by a multi-disciplinary Technical Assistance Team composed of Experts from ICAO and other stakeholders (States, International Organizations, Industry, etc.) might be needed to advance and expedite the implementation of the agreed actions in a prioritized manner, verify/validate the evidences related to the resolution of previously identified findings, provide necessary assistance, identify the main challenges and agree on necessary mitigation measures.

During this phase, regular teleconferences with the concerned technical experts will be held and regular briefs will be provided to the DG/Minister.

MID Region NCLB Strategy – Flowchart

5.2 The following Flowchart helps understand the process and activities related to each phase of the MID Region NCLB Strategy:



6. MID Region NCLB Implementation Plan

6.1 The MID Region NCLB Strategy supports the implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and its Roadmap as the basis to develop action plans that define the specific activities, which should take place in order to improve safety at the regional and national levels.

6.2 The MID Region NCLB Implementation Plan is a companion document to the MID Region NCLB Strategy. It is a living document used for recording the NCLB activities in the MID Region (general and State-by-State), including the monitoring of the States' NCLB Plan of Actions and States/Stakeholders' contributions to support the NCLB initiative. Specific goals, outcomes, deliverables and timelines are specified in the States' NCLB Plan of Actions/Recommended Actions.

- END -