



الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني  
GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY



# Regional Cooperation in Aircraft Accident Investigation

*Working Group 23*



## Introduction

- The Council on the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly agreed to:
  - promote mutual support and raise regional cooperation;
  - encourage States to consider establishing investigation cooperation mechanisms as an alternative to RAIOs; and
  - review and expand guidance in Doc 9946 to reflect other existing models of investigation cooperation mechanisms.
  
- Therefore, **WG-23 was formed at AIGP/6** to assist ICAO:
  - reviewing ICAO Doc 9946; and
  - expanding it related to RAIOs and other investigation cooperation mechanisms



## Introduction

- **Cooperation Intention:** Implementing an effective accident and incident investigation system to improve aviation safety and enhance the capabilities of States
- ICAO Doc 9946 was issued providing guidance on the establishment and management of RAIO and outline the duties and responsibilities of ICAO Contracting States



# Introduction

- Currently:
  - Two established RAIOS:
    - Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC) – 12 States
    - Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency (BAGAIA) – 7 States
  - Four different types of investigation cooperation mechanism (not under RAIO definition)
    - South American AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism (ARCM) – 12 States
    - European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities (ENCASIA) – 27 States
    - Central American Regional Aviation Accident Group (GRIAA) – 6 States
    - Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Accident Investigation Cooperation Mechanism (ARCM) – 14 States have signed out of 20 MENA States



## Progress – Conducting Surveys

- In order to promote cooperation between RAIOs, as well as ICMs, two surveys were conducted by the RAIO Cooperative Platform (RAIO CP) in July 2021 and September 2021 with five target groups:
  - Two RAIOs; and
  - Three other groups that were under the type of investigation cooperation mechanisms (ICMs) with diversity of terms and extent of cooperation areas.



## Progress – Survey 1

- The scope of survey 1 covered:
  - organisation description of the existing RAIOS and ICMs;
  - general capabilities description; and
  - investigation assignment.



## Progress – Survey 2

- The scope of survey 2 covered:
  - identifying the challenges;
  - Understanding the main needs that the existing RAIOs/ICMs have, which might be fulfilled by cooperation through the RAIO CP;
  - shaping the RAIO CP Work Programme; and
  - identifying opportunities.



## Progress – Responding to the Surveys

- Four RAIOS/ICMs out of five have responded to the surveys with the following aspects:
  - Challenges;
  - Needs;
  - Suggestions; and
  - Opportunities.



## Progress – Responded Surveys: **Challenges**

- The main challenges were:
  - prioritising of needs;
  - maintaining independence in the investigations;
  - foundation through the regulation
- RAIO groups expressed their concern about the contribution of the States and limitation in funding.



## Progress – Responded Surveys: **Needs**

- The main needs were:
  - training;
  - sharing of experiences;
  - use of laboratories;
  - interaction between RAIOs/ICMs;
  - worldwide cooperative database;
  - solutions for problems raised by others;
  - working documents and procedures; and
  - financial support through sponsors for “better investigation equipment”.

## Progress – Responded Surveys: **Suggestions**

- The groups provided suggested subjects to be added to the RAIO CP Work Programme such as:
  - ECCAIRS implementation advanced course;
  - Shared training programmes for RAIOs/ICMs;
  - interchange of investigators;
  - procedure standardisation;
  - fund raising mechanisms for RAIO; and
  - supporting States in establishing their in-progress ICMs.

## Discussion – the Conducted Surveys

- The two surveys highlighted the issues that were experienced by the existing RAIOS/ICMs.
- However, these surveys did not measure the standpoint of the entire Contracting States as:
  - individual experience;
  - the extent of their involvement in a type of regional investigation cooperation;
  - their current capabilities;
  - their willingness to be involved in a type of investigation cooperation mechanism; and
  - their opinion on the current guidance material issued by ICAO.

## WG23 Considered Actions to be Taken

- To take the views of the Contracting State individually, and accordingly to develop a new survey questionnaire to evaluate the aforementioned issues.
- As per WG-23 work plan, the new survey questionnaire will be distributed to all Contracting States and the purpose of the survey is to:
  - a. examine the States' involvement in any type of aircraft accident investigation cooperation;
  - b. identify the types of existing investigation cooperation mechanisms, their strengths and challenges, and evaluate the implementation level; and
  - c. gather the States' opinion on how the ICAO guidance material can be improved to incorporate the various types of investigation cooperation mechanisms.

## The New Survey Questionnaire

- The questionnaire incorporates key cooperation areas such as:
  - Human resources;
  - investigation expenses;
  - training;
  - equipment,
  - tools and technology;
  - sharing databases, and
  - the current status of the responding States on each of these areas.
  
- A **key question is left to the end of the questionnaire** to evaluate the States' willingness and tendency toward establishing any type of regional investigation cooperation as well as the level of their satisfaction towards the current ICAO guidance material.



## WG23 Next Actions

- WG-23 will then analyse the responses and:
  - a. Determine the effectiveness of regional cooperation;
  - b. Determine the need for new guidance material of investigation cooperation mechanisms;
  - c. If determined, draft guidance material and submit it to the AIGP/8 meeting for review and approval;
  - d. Carry out impact analysis on Annex 13 and relevant ICAO Documents; and
  - e. Coordinate with the RAIO CP for the next course of action for promoting the new guidance material, if developed.



## Survey Questionnaire – Regional Cooperation on Accident and Incident Investigations

- There are 10 sections mentioned in the new survey questionnaire.
- Among the sections, the following questions are included:
  - Preference of types of cooperation mechanism that fits the organization;
  - If any, the types of cooperation mechanism especially in the human resources aspect (provided investigators/experts) that had been experienced;
  - For States that had never engaged in any type of investigation cooperation mechanism, **three types are specified that may suitable for their region.**

## Survey Questionnaire – States never engaged in any type of investigation cooperation mechanism

- The three types of cooperation mechanism among the regional States are:
  - **Type 1:** under an agreement to share, on an ad-hoc basis, resources, training, information, documentation and/or capabilities; and strengthen conformity with Annex 13;
  - **Type 2:** under the framework of a regional investigation cooperation mechanism (well-defined scope and set of coordinated, organized and harmonized procedures and mechanisms, and/or a set of resources that can be pooled);
  - **Type 3:** establishment of a RAIO with well-defined mandate, roles and responsibilities, organization (human resources), funding mechanism, etc. with a centralized decision-making process on RAIO activities.

Thank you for your attention

