



**ASSEMBLY — 36TH SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item 62: Report of the High-Level Meeting on a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa**

**REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA**

(Presented by the Chairperson of the High-level Meeting)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper presents the outcome of and suggestions for follow-up to the High-level Meeting on a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa, as well as a draft Assembly resolution.

The AFI Plan provides a common framework for States and all partners to allow a more proactive approach to aviation safety in the continent. The AFI Plan includes the elements requiring immediate action, the identification of risks, the development of prioritized recommended actions, and continuous monitoring/evaluation and stresses clearly defined objectives, outputs, activities and metrics.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to approve the draft Assembly resolution on the AFI Plan proposed in Appendix B hereto.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives A and D.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No additional resources in the regular programme budget are required. The work involved for the Secretariat is expected to be undertaken within the resources allocated under the draft Budget 2008-2010 and using voluntary contributions from States.
<i>Reference:</i>	C-WP/12957

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa ((Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Plan) flows from an exploratory visit to Africa in 2006 by Members of ICAO's Air Navigation Commission. The Commission recommended a revitalization of ICAO's involvement in an effort, with all stakeholders, to reduce the accident rate and increase the overall level of safety in Africa. Under the direction of the Council and with the assistance and guidance of States and industry groups concerned, the ICAO Secretariat developed the AFI Plan. The Plan, approved by the Council on 30 May 2007, reflects ICAO's overall strategy and methodology contained in the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap developed by the Industry Safety Strategy Group (ISSG).

## 2. HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

2.1 To provide a platform for a realistic assessment of the current safety-related issues in the Africa-Indian Ocean Region and to map out the way forward for the implementation of the AFI Plan, the Council convened a one-day, high-level meeting to coincide with the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly. This high-level meeting, which was held on 17 September 2007 in Montreal, was attended by 289 participants from 73 Contracting States and 28 international organizations. The meeting, endorsing the AFI Plan, recommended that the Plan be built upon tangible implementation initiatives which are already taking place in the Africa-Indian Ocean Region. Furthermore, a number of States and international organizations offered pledges in cash and kind for the implementation of the Plan, which will be followed up and coordinated by ICAO to ensure proper utilization of these resources. The meeting adopted the Declaration at Appendix A hereto and urged the African States and industry to closely coordinate their efforts with ICAO to ensure optimum benefits to aviation safety in Africa and to reduce duplication in effort.

## 3. RESOLUTION ON THE AFI PLAN

3.1 The meeting, recognizing the need to coordinate, under the ICAO umbrella, activities of all stakeholders providing assistance to States in the AFI Region, developed a draft Assembly resolution on the AFI Plan. It is presented at Appendix B to this paper for consideration by the Assembly. The meeting recommends a stronger ICAO leadership role in coordinating activities for the sustained improvement of flight safety in the AFI Region.

3.2 The proposed resolution complements Assembly Resolution A33-16, *Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)* and Assembly Resolution A35-15, *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and practices related to a global air traffic management (ATM) system and communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems*.

## 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 As the Council of ICAO has already taken steps to address safety issues through the development of the AFI Plan, the high-level meeting agreed to commit to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Plan and to ongoing transparency with regard to the progress accomplished. The next steps include carrying out the gap analysis, identifying priority projects, and Contracting States and industry undertaking projects addressing the priorities consistent with programme management and business plan principles and practices.

## APPENDIX A

### **HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA (Montreal, 17 September 2007)**

#### **DECLARATION**

*Whereas* the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its Annexes provide the essential framework required to meet the safety needs of a global aviation system;

*Whereas* the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is recognized as the global forum for civil aviation which works to achieve safe, secure and sustainable development of civil aviation through cooperation amongst its Contracting States;

*Whereas* the 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly urges Contracting States to adopt the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) objectives to reduce aircraft accidents and to reduce the worldwide accident rate;

*Whereas* the Council of ICAO has agreed that a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa should be developed and presented to a high-level meeting;

*Whereas*, under ICAO's leadership, the Plan calls for collaboration by the regulatory agencies and industry in the implementation of initiatives aimed at rectifying aviation safety deficiencies;

*Considering* the Libreville Resolution and Plan of Action adopted by the African Union member States' Ministers Responsible for Air Transport in May 2006, whereby the Ministers undertook to reduce the rate of aircraft accidents in Africa to the world average by 2008;

*The Meeting hereby commits to reinforce the African safety framework by:*

1. *recognizing* the important role of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), a specialized agency of the African Union, and calling upon it to exercise leadership in the implementation of the Plan;
2. *endorsing* the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa;
3. *recommending* that the Plan be built upon tangible implementation initiatives which are already taking place in the Africa-Indian Ocean area;
4. *urging* Contracting States in Africa to commit to the implementation of the Plan, in accordance with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan;

**Appendix A**

5. *invoking* the heightened leadership role of ICAO, supported by strong management and coordination amongst States, to continue assisting in the development of an integrated approach to safety initiatives in Africa;
  6. *urging* all Contracting States to share with other Contracting States critical safety information which may have an impact on the safety of international air navigation and to facilitate access to all relevant safety information;
  7. *calling* for the expeditious implementation of safety management systems across the aviation industry in Africa;
  8. *calling* for African States to demonstrate the political will to address aviation deficiencies;
  9. *urging* African States and industry to closely coordinate their efforts with ICAO in order to ensure optimum benefits to aviation safety in Africa and to reduce duplication in effort; and
  10. *inviting* the Assembly to adopt the draft Assembly resolution.
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## APPENDIX B

### DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION BY THE 36TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### **Resolution A36/XX** **Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa**

*Whereas* it is essential that there be increased coordinated efforts under ICAO leadership to reduce serious deficiencies in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region which are detrimental to the functioning and further development of international civil aviation;

*Noting* that the Council of ICAO has already taken steps to address safety issues through the development of a Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (the Plan);

*Recognizing* that many Contracting States in the AFI Region may not have the technical or financial resources to comply with the requirements of the Chicago Convention and its Annexes and therefore have to rely on ICAO and other stakeholders for expertise and assistance;

*Recognizing* the need to coordinate, under the ICAO umbrella, activities of all stakeholders providing assistance to States in the AFI Region;

*Recognizing* that ICAO may require additional resources to successfully carry out its coordination role;

*Considering* the willingness of the international community to assist the AFI Region in giving, as soon as possible, a concrete and substantial content to the Plan;

*The Assembly:*

1. *Urges* Contracting States of the AFI Region to commit to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Plan and to ongoing transparency with regard to the progress accomplished;
2. *Encourages* Contracting States of the AFI Region to strengthen cooperation across the region in order to make the optimum use of available resources through regional and sub-regional projects in all sectors of civil aviation, with a high priority in the field of safety oversight;
3. *Instructs* the Council to notify States, industry and donors of the priority projects arising from the gap analysis;
4. *Encourages* all Contracting States, industry and donors to undertake projects addressing the priorities identified through the gap analysis carried out under the auspices of the Plan and consistent with the principles laid out in the Plan;

**Appendix B**

5. *Instructs* the Council to establish a mechanism to receive voluntary contributions from the parties willing to contribute to ICAO's coordination of the plan or implementation activities undertaken within the Plan;

6. *Instructs* the Council to coordinate the contributions towards the implementation of the Plan;

7. *Instructs* the Council to ensure a stronger ICAO leadership role in coordinating activities, initiatives and implementation strategies aimed specifically at meeting the goals and objectives of the Plan, in order to achieve sustained improvement of flight safety in the AFI Region and to allocate resources to the relevant Regional Offices accordingly;

8. *Instructs* the Council to implement the AFI Plan in line with programme management and business plan principles and practices;

9. *Instructs* the Council to monitor and measure the status of implementation in the AFI Region throughout the triennium and to report to the next Assembly on the progress made;

10. *Instructs* the Council to ensure the continued development of new working relationships integrating the capabilities of the bureaux at Headquarters with the resources of Regional Offices, Contracting States and industry stakeholders.

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