

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
**Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group
(AAO/SG6)
4 to 8 September 2023**
Agenda Item 3: ACHIEVEMENTS IN AIRSPACE AND AERODROME OPERATIONS
3. B4 Transition of Mogadishu FIR to Class A in airspace above FL245

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This working paper provides information on the successful transition of the Mogadishu FIC from Nairobi to Mogadishu and the establishment of Class A in the airspace above FL245 in the Mogadishu FIR.
Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.
REFERENCE(S): -APIRG Reports - SASCT reports
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): A – Aviation Safety B- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Somalia airspace, (Mogadishu FIR), had been providing Flight Information Service (FIS) in a Class G airspace following its downgrade in the 1990s due to civil unrest that led to the breakdown of the ATM system. During the exigent period, ICAO under the Civil Aviation Caretaker Authority for Somalia (CACAS) based in Nairobi, Kenya afforded services as a temporary measure to ensure continuity in the provision of air navigation services over the airspace. The stable political environment in Somalia, prompted the transfer of the services to Mogadishu in 2019, with Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) taking over and providing FIS in the entire airspace.

1.2. However the Class G services created a downgraded airspace in the midst of other Class A, this resulted in a high level of incident reporting and calls to upgrade the airspace to match the regional requirements.

- 1.3. As Air Traffic Management (ATM) system in Somalia developed, SCAA expressed readiness to provide air traffic control service over the Mogadishu FIR and shared with key stakeholders, plans to transition the upper airspace above FL245 from Class G to Class A and the provision of services from Flight Information Service (FIS) to Air Traffic Control Services (ATCS).

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. A consultative meeting between SCAA and the stakeholders held on 6/1/2022 agreed to establish a special team to support Somalia in executing a safe transition process.

- 2.2. The team, Somalia Airspace Special Coordination Team (SASCT) comprising of technical experts from ANSPs, IATA, ICAO, representative airlines, neighbouring FIRs, and ATM experts was setup, and held its first meeting on 2 February 2022 where that adopted the Teams Terms of Reference (ToRs) and established the Gap Analysis and the Training and Operational Trial-working groups.

- 2.3. The SASCT held 5 meeting in the period 2 February 2022 to 16 August 2023. During that period the team provided support to the Somalia CAA with the following:

- a. Focusing on addressing the gaps identified in the transition plan to provide technical support including the development of procedures for a safe transition.
 - Review of the proposed Air Traffic Controllers Training Plan for the transition to Class A and provision of Air Traffic Control Service in the upper airspace of the Mogadishu FIR (above FL245).
 - Review of the proposed Operational Trial Plan and the AIP Supplement for the transition.
 - Presentation of the Gap Analysis conducted on the preparedness of the State to transition to the provision of Air Traffic Control Service (ATCS) in the upper airspace above FL245.
- b. On training and Operational Trials, the following was observed:
 - i. The development of the training plans and operational transition plans that was at an advanced stage required refining;
 - Training plans were restructured to ensure the completion of the training of ATC personnel to meet Annex 1 provisions.
 - The outstanding NOTAM for operational training and trial period had to be canceled and or replaced by an AIP supplement detailing the procedures and notified using the AIRAC system.

c. Gap Analysis was conducted and the following areas identified for mitigation and action:

- The installations for the extended VHF coverage to be expedited.
- The hours for the operational trial be reviewed taking into account the safety risks involved.
- Approval process to be conducted in accordance to the SARPs
- Post implementation period to be identified and carried out.

2.4. On 22 January 2023, the SASCT gave the SCAA the go ahead to successfully implement Class A in the airspace above FL245. The implementation was effective 26 January 2023.

2.5. On 16 August 2023, the SASCT held a post-implementation meeting to review the status of the operation following a six month period of monitoring. The team were able to report that no adverse incidents were recorded to warrant concern and that reports on UCRs and LHD had decreased.

2.6. The successfully conclusion of the implementation dissolved the SASCT and finally concluded the transition of the Mogadishu FIC/ACC to Mogadishu successful.

2. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) Recommend to APIRG the conclusion of the reporting on the transition of Mogadishu FIC/ACC to Class A.
