



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/26)

7 - 8 November 2023

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan**3.1 Outcomes of the Sixth Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group Meeting (AAO/SG6)***(Presented by AAO/SG Secretariat)*

Summary
<p>This paper presents the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-group (AAO/SG6), held at the ICAO WACAF Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, from 4 to 8 September 2023.</p> <p>The Sub-Group reviewed the status of implementation of APIRG Conclusions/Decisions related to the AAO/SG areas from AAO/SG1 up to AAO/SG5; discussed achievements and challenges in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations and proposed follow up actions. The meeting also deliberated on AOP related Air Navigation Deficiencies and the accuracy of data in the e-ANP. The meeting further reviewed the status of implementation of specific projects and ASBU elements as well.. Finally, the meeting discussed matters related to activities to be coordinated with the RASG-AFI including actions that require ICAO HQ attention.</p> <p>Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doc 7300, Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944• Doc 9750, Global Air Navigation Plan, 7th Edition• Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan - Africa-Indian Ocean Region• Doc 10115, Report of the Thirteenth Air Navigation Conference (2018)• APIRG Procedural Handbook• APIRG Reports• AAO/SG5 Report
<p>Strategic Objective(s): This working paper relates to the Strategic Objectives: A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E - Environmental Protection.</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting was attended by sixty-five (65) participants from States accredited to ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices as well as Regional/International Organizations. Regional Officers from the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Offices served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting discussed ten (10) agenda items as reflected in the Report of the Meeting presented in **Appendix 1** to this Working Paper.

2.2 The meeting carried out election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to lead the subgroup activities for the next two years. The meeting therefore agreed on the following Decision.

Draft Decision 26/XX: Election of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the AAO SG

That, to ensure continuity of activities of the AAO SG,

a) Mr. Nathan Kaluba, Director Aerodrome Safety Standards from Republic of Zambia is elected as Chairperson of the AAO Subgroup

and

b) Mr. Sanogo Adama, Head of ATM and SAR from Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is elected as Vice-chairperson of AAO Subgroup.

2.3 The meeting reviewed the APIRG conclusions and decisions applicable to the AAO/SG from AAO/SG1 up to AAO/SG5. The status of implementation of AAO/SG Projects, ASBU elements and reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies applicable to AOP and ATM/SAR was also discussed. The meeting finally reviewed achievements made by the AAO/SG as well as the challenges encountered.

2.4 Seven (7) draft Conclusions/Decisions were adopted by the AAO/SG6 meeting. This paper presents draft Conclusions/Decisions that call for the attention of the APIRG.

Agenda item 2: Review of the draft Conclusions/Decisions of the AAO/SG5 and Conclusions/Decisions of APIRG/25 meeting related to AAO/SG.

2.5 The meeting reviewed all the APIRG and RASG-AFI conclusions and decisions pertaining to the mandate of the AAO Sub-group from APIRG/21 up to APIRG/25. 88 conclusions and decisions were identified as valid and 60 that were not valid. The meeting redrafted/reformulated the valid conclusions and decisions to ensure that they are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time bound (SMART). It was agreed that the consolidated outstanding conclusions are implementation gaps to be addressed in the plans of activities of the AAO/SG. The new list of conclusions is attached as **Appendix 2** to this working paper.

2.6 The meeting also reviewed the status of implementation of the APIRG/25 conclusions and decisions applicable to the AAO/SG and noted that 73% were completed, 18% were ongoing and 9% was open. The meeting called on States and Organizations to ensure successful completion of implementation of all open items.

Agenda Item 3: Achievements in Airspace and Aerodrome Operations

Status of implementation of ASBU Elements applicable to the Region

3.1 The meeting was updated on the status of implementation of the ASBU elements in the region and noted the need for workshops to increase awareness on ASBU fundamentals in ESAF and WACAF Regions. The workshops are expected to enhance implementation status which would be reflected through reporting. The meeting therefore agreed on the following draft decision:

Draft Decision 26/xx: Increased awareness on ASBU framework

That, to enhance the status of implementation of the ASBU elements; the Secretariat to conduct at least two ASBU awareness workshops by 31st October 2024.

AFCAC initiative : Aviation infrastructure gap analysis

3.2 The meeting was informed the African Union (AU) and AFCAC have decided to conduct a long-term Aviation Infrastructure gap analysis based on 25-year projection that would determine and mobilize the necessary resources and funding required to bridge the identified gaps. As part of this initiative, a Technical Working Group workshop was organized in Marrakech, Morocco, in June 2023. The sub-group noted similarities between the AFCAC report and the ongoing AFI ATM Master Plan project by ICAO, and therefore called on harmonization of the two projects for efficiency and optimum use of available resources.

Reporting on planning and implementation by States and Stakeholders

Free Route Airspace Project Management Team (FRA PMT) Activities

3.3 The meeting was informed of the results of the AFI FRA Risk Assessment workshop conducted from 27 February to 2 March 2023. The meeting noted the need to refine the current AFI ATS routes network to connect the FRA from the upper to the lower airspace.

3.4 The meeting noted the strong link that existed between FRA, Performance Based Navigation (PBN) and Civil-Military Cooperation (CMC) Projects activities. The meeting therefore formulated the following decision:

Draft Decision 26/xx: Project Management Teams Coordinated Workshops

That, given the common link between PBN, FRA and Civil-Military Cooperation activities, the PMTs coordinate the conduct of at least two joint workshops/ meetings to optimize resources and improve coordination of activities.

The AFI PBN Route Laboratory

3.5 The meeting was informed that the AFI PBN Route laboratory meeting which took place in Nairobi Kenya, from 22 to 26 May 2023 highlighted the low level of implementation of CCO/CDO in AFI States. The meeting also agreed on the request of new PBN routes in ESAF and WACAF airspaces and reconstitution of the PBN PMT.

AAMP PMT Activities Report

3.6 The meeting was informed of an identified gap in the development of regional strategic documents, that AAMP PMT constitution is mainly of AOP and ATM expertise and lacking representation from CNS, AIM and especially MET areas. The meeting tasked the AAO/SG Chairperson together with the AAMP PMT coordinator to liaise with the IIM/SG Chairperson and project leads to coordinate the review and continuous maintenance of the AAMP strategy documents (i.e the Master Plan, AFI ATM Vision 2045 and the future Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the consideration of their input and comments.

3.7 The meeting was also presented with a revised list of members of the AAMP PMT. The meeting also noted the need for review of the AFI ATM Vision 2045 for alignment with the latest Edition of the GANP and called on the PMT to incorporate this in their activities.

Civil Military Cooperation in ATM (CMC) Activities

3.8 The meeting noted that three workshops were conducted in 2023 including two virtual and one in-person in Lusaka, Zambia from 7 to 11 August 2023. The Lusaka workshop was attended by 95 participants including fifteen (15) States, four (4) International organizations and three (3) international airlines operating in the region.

3.9 The meeting agreed to invite military authorities to APIRG meetings to improve collaboration and cooperation and establish among civil military high-level policy board with specific Terms of Reference which are included as **Appendix 3** to this working paper. The meeting formulated the following draft conclusions:

Draft Conclusion 26/xx: Review of Project 9 - Civil Military Cooperation/ Flexible Use of Airspace

*That, to effectively support and guide the implementation of Civil Military Cooperation/ Flexible Use of Airspace in the AFI region, the Terms of Reference of Project 9 in **Appendix 3** to this report is amended and the Project Management Team be reconstituted by 31 December 2023.*

Draft Conclusion 26/xx: Establishment of the Civil Military Cooperation/ Flexible Use of Airspace project management Team

That, to effectively support and guide the implementation of Civil Military Cooperation/ Flexible Use of Airspace in the AFI region, States are urged to nominate experts to the Civil Military Cooperation Flexible Use of Airspace Project Management Team.

AFI RVSM Airspace Safety

3.10 The meeting was concerned by the increased ATS incidents in RVSM Flight Information Center (FIC) between the borders of the AFI and MID regions. Of specific concern was the closure of the Khartoum FIR and the Niger airspace because of civil unrest forcing air traffic to avoid the two airspace and resulting in traffic overload in the Red Sea region. Of concern was the increase of Large Height Deviation reports in the Asmara FIR which is as a result of coordination failures between Asmara ACC and the MID FIRs namely Sanaa and Jeddah ACCs. It was noted that there is urgent need to update the operational procedures between Asmara and the neighbouring FIRs to address the deficiencies noted so far.

3.11 The Meeting was also informed of the upcoming webinars on Large Height Deviations (LHD) and Performance Based Communication and Surveillance (PBCS).

Mogadishu FIC/ACC Relocation and Upgrade

3.12 The meeting noted the successful relocation of Mogadishu airspace from Nairobi to Mogadishu, the successfully upgrade from FIC to Area Control Centre (ACC) and the upgrade of the airspace of Mogadishu from Class G to Class A effective on 26 January 2023. The meeting therefore agreed that the project on the upgrade and relocation of Mogadishu FIC/ACC was concluded.

AFI ATM Contingency Plan Project Management Team (AFI CP PMT) activities report

3.13 The meeting was informed of the developments in the region related to contingency situations, namely the activation of the contingency plan for the airspace of Sudan, Gabon, and Niger which caused significant air traffic disruptions in and around the AFI and adjacent FIRs.

3.14 The lessons learnt from the activation of the Contingency Coordination Teams (CCTs) to handle the contingency situations in the year indicated that the title of AFI ATM Contingency Plan Coordination Team (AFI ATM CCT) as captured in the AFI ATM CP required to be amended to avoid the confusion with the CCTs usually activated during contingencies. Also noted were the discrepancies in some of the national contingency plans which required review to align the contingency routes and associated flight level allocation scheme to avoid conflict when the routes are activated.

3.15 The meeting further reminded States and Organizations to develop National Contingency plans and share the link on ICAO for publication on ICAO website.

Runway Safety Project Team

3.16 The meeting was informed that the Runway Safety Project team had developed the Project document and submitted for approval. The meeting was informed that the Project team had proposed some activities that would enhance the Runway Safety Programmes at Airports including activities for consideration to increase the number of active Runway Safety teams in the Region.

3.17 The meeting was informed that the Project team together with Runway Safety Go-Team members participated in missions for establishment of Runway Safety Teams at some airports in Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan.

A-CDM Project Team

3.18 The meeting was informed of the proposed criteria for implementation of Airport-Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) in the region for consideration. The criteria include key actions and steps for the effective implementation of A-CDM by considering traffic density at airports to determine the airports that would be eligible for implementation of ACDM.

Aerodrome Certification Project Team Report

3.19 The Aerodrome Certification Project Team informed the meeting that the team had revised the project document to fast-track the certification of international Aerodromes in the region. The meeting was informed that project team had identified the following challenges affecting the Certification of International Airports namely, regulatory compliance, inadequate infrastructure and resources, inadequate qualified and personnel and financial constraints.

Training and Qualification Project Team Report

3.20 The meeting was informed that as of July 2023, 30 States (62.5%) and 5 Training Organizations had provided feedback to a questionnaire developed by the team to collect data. The meeting noted that some areas covering the Aerodrome Operator technical personnel needed to be included in the survey before final submission of the project Document for consideration by APCC.

Membership of aerodrome operations (AOP) Project Teams

3.21 The meeting noted that the list of AOP project team members was not up to date given that it included some members who had separated from the Organizations. The meeting called on States and Organizations to ensure that the project team members are replaced by suitably qualified experts to ensure the project team activities are not slowed down.

GRF implementation initiative in Burkina Faso

3.22 Burkina Faso reported designing ground-contact and non-contact to perform runway assessments and reporting of Runway Surface Conditions to implement ICAO's Global Reporting Format methodology. The meeting appreciated the innovation which was still at experimental stage and encouraged the State to pursue the initiative to a conclusion and share the experience and lessons learned from the results.

Wildlife hazard management challenges at the regional level

3.23 Uganda reported on the outcome of the Regional Wildlife Hazard Management workshop that took place from 26 to 27 July 2022, attended by participants from ESAF and WACAF States. The meeting was informed of the challenges States were facing in the process of Establishment of Wildlife hazard management programmes. This was specifically noted in the high number of States reporting 'unknowns'. To develop a strategy to address the unique challenges, the meeting proposed that a team of experts be tasked to carry out survey on the number, impact and frequency of the 'unknown' and propose measures to address the challenges by 31 July 2024.

CANSO initiatives

3.24 The meeting was also informed of a CANSO ATFM Data Exchange Network for Cooperative Excellence (CADENCE) which was established for sharing of information among participating entities. The tool is currently in use in the South America region. CANSO also called on States to embrace the CANSO Mombasa Roadmap and fast-track the implementation of CDM.

SASO initiatives

3.25 The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Aviation Safety Organisation (SASO) informed the meeting of the initiatives and activities carried out by the Organization. The activities included training of ANS inspectors, assistance missions as well as harmonization of regulations and guidance materials. The meeting also embraced the offer by SADC to host AAO/SG activities and sponsor experts to any trainings for SADC member States to the events.

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation Plan

Update of AFI eANP

4.1 The meeting recalled the APIRG/24 Decision 24/30 which called for the identification of applicable ASBU Elements and the finalization of AFI eANP Volume III. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Secretariat circulated the draft Volume III of the AFI eANP for feedback through a State letter dated 20 January 2023. However, only three States provided feedback.

4.2 The meeting raised the need for States to update the Status of information in the AFI eANP through procedures for amendment (PfAs) for volume I and II and provide feedback on volume III. It was also noted that the relevant technical personnel do not get access to ICAO State letters, which leads to poor feedback from States and lack of participation in ICAO organized activities.

Agenda item 5: Air Navigation Deficiencies

Management and Reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies

5.1 The meeting was informed that on 17th May 2023, the AANDD platform was officially launched through a webinar organized by the Secretariat. The webinar further familiarized the participants with information on the use of the AANDD platform for the identification, notification, assessment, and resolution of air navigation deficiencies. The meeting noted that the AANDD tool was fully operational and urged States and Organizations to utilize the tool for the management and reporting of Air Navigation deficiencies.

5.2 The meeting recalled the provisions of the Uniform methodology for the identification, assessment and reporting of deficiencies adopted by the ICAO Council on 30 November 2023, and called upon all implicated stakeholders to fully participate and play their roles under this methodology.

Agenda item 6: Activities to be coordinated with RASG/AFI

6.1 The meeting was informed that coordination in RVSM Airspace especially on Large High Deviation (LHD) remained a concern in AFI. In addition, the recent closure of state borders in Gabon, Niger, and Sudan due to civil unrest exacerbated the safety issues in AFI airspace.

6.2 The meeting also noted that PBCS implementation required aircraft approvals which falls under the responsibility of RASG AFI. The meeting therefore called upon RASG AFI to expedite an awareness programme on PCBS to States to enable effective implementation in the region.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) activities in WACAF States

6.3 The meeting was informed that a Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) implementation survey was conducted by ICAO in the WACAF States in early 2023. Results of the survey revealed that although all States have nominated RPAS Focal Points, lack of RPAS promulgated regulations and the upregulation of RPAS activities in the region.

6.4 The meeting thus called upon RASG-AFI to support States to expedite the development and implementation of related national regulations.

Agenda Item 7: Implementation challenges in AAO/SG

7.1 The meeting was informed of a challenge on projects' definition and drafting by project team members and requested the Secretariat to conduct a virtual webinar to raise awareness to project team members concerning the subject.

7.2 The meeting highlighted the lack of information on some concepts such as AFI PBCS plan and national regulatory framework template, as well as how to determine ATS Capacity.

7.3 The meeting called on States to proactively mitigate the Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) in Flight procedure design and approval processes that were significantly increasing in the region. In this regard the meeting formulated the following draft decision:

Draft Decision 26/xx: Sensitization Workshops on Instrument Flight Procedures.

That, to mitigate the risk of SSCs related to PANS-OPS in the region, the Secretariat conduct two sensitization workshops in 2024 aimed at increasing awareness on design and approval processes for Instrument Flight Procedures by States and Organizations.

7.4 The meeting was informed that the number of signed SAR agreements was lowest in the region and encouraged States and regional bodies to support joint SAR agreements to optimize the available resources and harmonize SAR procedures and services.

7.5 The meeting encouraged States and regional bodies to support joint SAR agreements to optimize the available resources and harmonize SAR procedures and services.

Agenda item 8: Recommendations/actions to be taken by ICAO HQ

8.1 The meeting called on ICAO HQs to support the region by identification of experts from other regions who can support in terms of training and sharing of best practices on Civil/Military Cooperation matters.

8.2 The meeting also called on States to nominate and encourage suitable qualified experts to participate in ICAO panels and working groups when required.

Agenda item 9: Terms of Reference of the Sub-Group

9.1 The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the AAO/SG to identify areas for improvement and align with GANP 7th Edition as well as the global safety initiative. The meeting opted to further review the Terms of Reference and later provide any observations for consideration in subsequent AAO/SG meetings.

Agenda item 10 Work programme of the Sub-Group

10.1 The meeting proposed the future work Programme of the AAO/SG which included activities and meetings as presented in **Appendix 4** to this working paper and agreed on the following draft decision:

Draft Decision 26/xx: Work Programme of the AAO/SG

*That, in accordance with the Sub-group's mandate, the work programme of the AAO/SG is endorsed as shown in **Appendix 4** to this working paper.*

Closing of meeting

The meeting was officially closed by the Regional Director of the WACAF Regional Office. In his closing remarks, Mr. Zo'o Minto'o Prosper, Regional Director ICAO WACAF, expressed his gratitude

to the participating States and Organizations and thanked them for their continued support to ICAO initiatives and activities.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- a. Take note of the outcomes of the deliberations of the AAO/SG6 meeting.
- b. Consider and endorse the Draft Conclusions and Decisions for implementation by stakeholders.