



# ICAO

## 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

#### 3.6. Other Air Navigation Initiatives

#### PROVISION OF ATS IN THE RWANDA UPPER AIRSPACE BY KIGALI AREA CONTROL CENTER

*(Presented by Rwanda)*

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to provide updates on provision of ATS in the Rwanda Upper Airspace by Kigali Area Control Center, following the De-Delegation of Air Traffic Service Provision in the Rwanda Upper Airspace, and the progress in the implementation of the Kigali upper flight Information Region which was restructured to enhance safety and efficiency in the provision of air traffic services.

Rwanda wishes to appreciate the United Republic of Tanzania for the provision of Air navigation Services from the time of the delegation of this service and for the support and cooperation during the de-delegation.

Action by the Meeting is in **paragraph 3**.

<b>REFERENCE(S)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annex 1: Personnel Licensing</li> <li>- Annex 11: Air Traffic Services</li> <li>- Doc 4444: PANS ATM</li> <li>- Doc 9426: ATS Planning Manual</li> <li>- Rwanda Civil Aviation Regulations</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li> <li>- Security and Facilitation</li> <li>- Economic Development of Air Transport</li> <li>- Environmental Protection</li> </ul>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Following the delegation of provision of Air Traffic services in Rwanda airspace by the Fifth AFI Regional Air Navigation (AFI RAN/5) held in Rome, Italy from 10 January to 2 February 1973 to the then East African Flight Information Region, and following the discontinuation of the East African Community Area Control Center (ACC), since then United Republic of Tanzania ACC has been providing the services in the Rwanda upper airspace on behalf of the Republic of Rwanda.

1.2 In July 2017, Rwanda expressed intention to directly discharge her responsibility of providing air traffic services in her entire airspace in accordance to the Chicago Convention, with regard to the provision of air navigation services in its airspace so as to address the complexities associated with multiple TMAs within Rwanda airspace, and facilitate the implementation of Rwanda's vision and strategic plan of establishing an aviation hub.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Following several ICAO ATM Coordination Meetings between Rwanda and the Concerned States (Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania and The Democratic Republic of Congo) held under auspices of ICAO ESAF Regional Office in Nairobi, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Rwanda agreed that the provision of Air traffic services in the upper airspace of Kigali be reinstated, and that the formalities of hand-over/take-over procedures should follow an agreed implementation plan between the two States.

2.2 It was agreed that, the revision of the Kigali FIR boundary to follow the national borders between Rwanda and other States concerned.

2.3 On 16 August 2022, the two States signed the deed of handover in Kigali regarding provision of air traffic and supporting air Navigation Services in the upper airspace of the Republic of Rwanda and was witnessed by ICAO ESAF Regional Office.

2.4 The Deed specified that, both Parties take necessary action to achieve the following:

- a) Meet the objectives of air traffic services as provided for in Annexes 2 and 11 to the Chicago Convention and supporting Procedures for Air Navigation Services; and
- b) the parties to develop and agree on the implementation plan.

2.5 The Implementation Plan included among others the following:

- a) ATM Coordination Meetings with adjacent States under the auspices of ICAO;
- b) Development and publication of Safety documents;
- c) Staff Training, On Job Training (OJT) and Licensing;
- d) Review and signing of letter of Procedures with adjacent States; and
- e) Development of Safety assessments and implementation of mitigation measures.

2.6 Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania adopted and implemented the plan in close coordination with all neighboring States and ICAO.

2.7 All letters of Agreement/procedures (LoA/P) with all adjacent FIRs were amended and signed.

2.8 Rwanda assumed full responsibility of providing air traffic services in its upper airspace above FL 245 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and all operations is going on smoothly.

2.9 Rwanda extends her sincere thanks to ICAO, the United Republic of Tanzania, the adjacent States and IATA for the continuous support and collaboration towards provision of ATS in Rwanda upper airspace.

## **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) note that Kigali ACC is providing ATS in Rwanda upper airspace from 1st December 2022.