



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

Activities of the CANSO AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism

(Presented by CANSO)

SUMMARY	
This Information paper presents the actions conducted in the framework of the AFI ANSP Peer Review Mechanism activities restart after COVID-19 pandemic.	
Action by the Meeting is as per paragraph 4.	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advance the objectives of the AFI Plan. • To support continuous improvement in safety and quality of air navigation operations.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the initiative of the President of the Council, a meeting of the African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) was held in Montréal on February 4th, 2015, to discuss the need to identify ways and means of addressing some challenges the air navigation services are facing in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region.
- 1.2 The African ANSP Peer Review Program was born from the desire of African ANSPs to set up a mechanism for evaluation and benchmarking by peers, like "IOSA" for the 'IATA (airlines) and "APEX" for ACI (airports).
- 1.3 In 2016, a Steering Group with a view to developing a regional framework and a mechanism for improving ANS safety performance in Africa, including peer review was created. It is composed of the following members: ASECNA (Chair), Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), South Africa (Vice-Chair), CANSO (Member and Secretariat), Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria ANSPs (Members), ICAO (Member) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) (Observer). It was agreed that ICAO would continue to play an active role in supporting the initiative through the AFI Regional Offices.

2. OBJECTIVES

- a) establish and maintain a uniform level of safety for the AFI Region.
- b) assist ANSPs in fulfilling their international obligations related to air navigation services, including air traffic services (ATS), the design of flight procedures, aeronautical information service (AIS), mapping, meteorology (MET), communications, navigation, and surveillance (CNS), search and rescue (SAR) and safety management system (SMS).
- c) pooling toolkits, human resources and available training and integrating safety and quality reviews within a safety and quality assurance programme specific to the ANSPs to reduce certification costs.

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1 This ICAO support took the form of:

- the development of a draft African ANSP Peer Review Program Manual to set up a review framework encompassing the SMS and all areas of the ANS (ATS, CNS, MET, SAR, PANS-OPS, AIM, and NAVAID calibration); and
- Training review experts hosted by ASECNA in Grand Bassam (Côte d’Ivoire).

This draft manual was adopted at the ANSP meeting held from 3 to 5 May 2017 in Freetown (Sierra Leone). Cross-reviews were carried out by ASECNA and ANSP Ghana in 2019 Ghana to assess the draft manual. A similar initiative was set up by CANSO Africa called CANSO Standards of Excellence (CANSO SoE) and saw the participation of some African ANSPs including Ghana, Eswatini, South Africa.

3.2 The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of these activities. During their meeting held in Lomé, Togo from March 28 to April 1, 2022, African ANSPs agreed to relaunch peer review activities in 2023 by merging all similar initiatives at the continental level, in particular CANSO SoE. Thus, a Task Force led by ASECNA was set up also comprising experts from ANSPs in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Eswatini with the objective of:

- Merge the draft program manual developed by ICAO with the CANSO SOE manual.
- Produce a single review questionnaire considering the new versions of ICAO Protocol Questions and the SMS evaluation elements contained in the CANSO SoE Manual.
- Translate the revised documentation into French from English.
- Organize training of experts for familiarization with the new common framework for African ANSPs peer reviews.
- Carry out pilot review activities in the second half of 2023 to test the new framework.

3.3 The finalized draft documents have been submitted to ICAO for comments before the initiation of the pilot reviews and dissemination to African ANSPs. The final draft including the outcome of the pilot review will be presented to the African ANSP Steering Committee at an appropriate time.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Far from being an audit activity, the African ANSP Peer Review Program was born from the desire of African ANSPs to set up a non-punitive peer evaluation and benchmarking mechanism, like "IOSA" for IATA and "APEX" for ACI.
- 4.2 The framework of the peer review concept and its objectives, terms of reference, guiding principles, programme phases, guidance manual and protocol questions form the basis of the programme and are designed to enhance the quality objective of consistent and systematic process.

5 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 5.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) take note of the information provided in this paper;
 - b) applaud ICAO for continued support to the African ANSP Peer Review Programme;
 - c) encourage States to support the AFI Plan Project on the implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme and set up a team to recruit the experts from ANSPs for the execution of the reviews; and
 - d) request African ANSPs to work together to strengthen the African ANSP Peer Review Programme to enhance safety and efficiency of air transport operations in Africa.