



# ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

## Nineth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-AFI/9)

9 November 2023

### Agenda Item 4: Status of implementation of the GASP safety goals, targets and indicators including the priorities set in the regional safety plan

#### 4.3. Other Safety initiatives

#### Support Provided to EAC Partner States by EAC CASSOA

*(Presented by EAC CASSOA)*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) is a Regional Safety Oversight Organization established by the East African Community. Its mandate is to enhance aviation safety and security in the region. CASSOA engages in capacity building, regulatory harmonization, technical support missions to improve the civil aviation safety oversight systems in the EAC Partner States.

This paper discusses the role of the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) in supporting the East African Community (EAC) Partner States in improving their aviation safety oversight systems. CASSOA supports States in implementing the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Abuja Safety Targets incorporating AFI ANS performance indicators by helping them establish and strengthen state safety oversight systems, enhance safety oversight capabilities, implement effective safety programs, and foster regional collaboration. Through these activities, CASSOA helps the states meet international safety and security requirements set by ICAO.

**Action:** The action by the Meeting is in **paragraph 3**

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	Aviation Safety
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)</li> <li>- Revised Abuja Safety Targets incorporating AFI ANS performance indicators</li> </ul>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) was established by the East African Community (EAC) to improve aviation safety and security in the region. CASSOA's mandate includes adopting common policies, harmonizing regulations, and coordinating measures to ensure high security standards in civil aviation. The Agency engages in activities such as capacity building, regulatory harmonization, safety audits, and technical assistance to enhance the performance of the civil aviation safety oversight system in the EAC Partner States. By fulfilling these activities, CASSOA supports the EAC Partner States in meeting their obligations to comply with international safety and security requirements set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- 1.2 CASSOA also recognizes the importance of keeping up with emerging technologies in the aviation industry, particularly Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones. The agency actively participates in discussions and forums related to UAS and develops regulations and guidelines to ensure their safe and responsible use in the aviation sector. By embracing these new technologies and establishing appropriate regulations, CASSOA contributes to the safe integration of UAS in the East African region's aviation operations.

## 2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 **Harmonization of Civil Aviation Legislation and procedures:** over the years, CASSOA has established technical committees and working groups to harmonize civil aviation legislation in the EAC region. These committees develop, review, and amend model legislation and guidance materials based on ICAO provisions, including the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and *Annexes*. The working groups incorporate ICAO amendments into regional legislation to address emerging issues and changes in the operational environment and technology. This ensures that the EAC region stays aligned with international aviation standards.
- 2.2 **Technical Support missions:** CASSOA conducts missions to assess compliance with EAC model legislation and guidance materials. These missions help identify areas for improvement and support Partner States in meeting ICAO requirements. During these missions, CASSOA reviews the implementation of regulations and guidance materials, assesses progress in addressing previous ICAO audit findings, and provides recommendations to improve compliance. Follow-up activities are conducted to ensure the implementation of these recommendations by the Partner States.
- 2.3 **Capacity Building:** CASSOA coordinates and facilitates capacity building initiatives for civil aviation inspectors in the EAC region. This includes training, workshops, and seminars to enhance their knowledge and skills emphasizing in aviation safety oversight.
- 2.4 **EAC examination system:** CASSOA has developed an automated examination system for civil aviation professionals in the EAC region. This system streamlines and improves the assessment process by allowing for the creation and administration of examinations for various aviation disciplines. It provides a standardized and centralized platform, ensuring consistency and fairness. The implementation of this system aims to enhance the quality and reliability of assessments, contributing to a competent and skilled workforce in the aviation industry. This, in turn, promotes aviation safety and security in the region.
- 2.5 **Inspector Sharing Scheme:** CASSOA coordinates the sharing of technical personnel among Partner States to promote collaboration and mutual learning. This addresses gaps in personnel

qualification capabilities and strengthens aviation safety oversight in the EAC region. The scheme allows for the exchange and deployment of qualified personnel, with surplus states supporting those facing shortages. This support can include technical expertise, training, and advisory services. By sharing personnel, the Partner States enhance their safety oversight performance and benefit the EAC region as a whole.

- 2.6 Supporting the State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation:** CASSOA provides significant support and guidance to the EAC Partner States in establishing and implementing the State Safety Programme (SSP). CASSOA works closely with the Partner States to ensure the effective implementation of the SSP, enhancing safety oversight and compliance with international safety standards.
- 2.7 Aviation Safety projects:** CASSOA collaborates with development partners to enhance aviation safety compliance in the EAC region through focused projects. These projects target specific areas for improvement identified through audits and assessments. Currently, CASSOA is working on streamlining license validation for aviation professionals, including flight crew, maintenance engineers, and air traffic controllers, across the region. This initiative aims to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and promote career development in the aviation sector, contributing to the broader EAC integration agenda.
- 2.8 Collaborative Projects:** CASSOA collaborates with Development Partners to improve aviation safety in the EAC region. Projects, funded by partners like the EU and AFCAC, are implemented to establish robust safety oversight systems. An example is the South Sudan project funded by AFCAC and the EU through the EU ASA Project (is discussed in another paper). These frameworks are crucial for an effective aviation safety oversight system.

### **3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) Note the information Provided in the Working Paper
  - b) Donor States, Regional Economic Communities, and development partners are urged to provide support to the Agency in order to strengthen aviation safety and security in the EAC region, thereby assisting the Partner States in implementing projects effectively.

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