



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation
Regional Group (APIRG/27)

5 - 6 November 2024

**Agenda item 3: Implementation of air navigation objectives, targets and indicators, including
the priorities set out in the regional air navigation plan**

3.3. Update on the African Flight Procedure Programme (AFPP)

Prevention and resolution of air navigation services related SSCs

(Presented by the secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the status of air navigation services (ANS) related significant safety concerns (SSCs) in the AFI region and the outcomes of the first workshop on the subject.	
Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	A – Safety B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The ICAO Doc. 9734 – PART A refers the Significant Safety Concern (SSC) as any condition, practice, or violation that occurs when a State allows the holder of a license, certificate, approval or authorization to exercise the privileges attached to the license, certificate, approval or authorization without the holder meeting the minimum requirements established by the State and by the Standards set forth in the Annexes to the Chicago Convention and resulting in an immediate safety risk to international civil aviation.
- 1.2. The meeting may recall that APIRG/26 noted with concern the increasing number of SSCs related to flight procedures in the AFI region for the last 5 years which has grown from one in 2019 to five in 2023. The meeting therefore called for the Secretariat to conduct two sensitization workshops in 2024 aimed at increasing awareness on design and approval processes for Instrument Flight Procedures by States and Organizations.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The Secretariat in implementing the APIRG Decision 26/07, reviewed the root causes of the SSCs that occurred in the region and defined the scope of the workshops to be organized. It was noted that the root causes of the SSCs involved many technical and operational areas such as AGA, AIM, CNS and PANS OPS.
- 2.2. The Secretariat in coordination with the African Flight Procedure Program (AFPP), therefore conducted from 19 to 23 August 2024 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire a workshop on the prevention and resolution of air navigation services related significant safety concerns.
- 2.3. The workshop was attended by fifty-four (54) participants from sixteen (16) ESAF and WACAF States and three (3) organizations, including Airport operators, ANSPs and RSOOs.
- 2.4. The workshop aimed at raising awareness of the participants on the issues of significant safety concern and build capacities on the effective implementation activities. It also serves as a forum to share experiences on best practices for the prevention and resolution of significant safety concerns.
- 2.5. Topics discussed during the workshop included aerodrome obstacle management, flight procedure implementation, navigation aids operations and maintenance, aeronautical information and cartography management, SSCs related USOAP CMA protocol questions processing and frequently occurring shortcomings.
- 2.6. Outcomes of the workshop highlighted several challenges including insufficient high-level commitment to the prevention and resolution of deficiencies related to instrument flight procedures (IFP), obstacle management and Nav aids calibration and maintenance, limited access to funds for the timely conduct of WGS 84 campaign; and the effective establishment of IFP design, validation and approval processes as well as for the timely conduct of ground-based Nav aids testing. The low level of cooperation among States was also identified as contributing to high safety deficiencies in the region.
- 2.7. The workshop issued several recommendations such as sensitization of high-level Decision-Makers on SSCs and related preventive actions, the establishment of sub-regional mechanisms to foster collaboration and sharing of information and experience in order to ensure effective and efficient identification and resolution of deficiencies. A call for a more accessible cost of flight validation and flight calibration was raised by the participants.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) Take note of the information in this paper; and
 - b) Encourage States and organizations to leverage on lessons learned to improve their aviation safety oversight systems and implementation activities.