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 5. Common implementation challenges identified amongst APIRG members and way forward.

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper presents main challenges encountered by the APIRG and its contributory bodies in carrying out their activities since APIRG/26. **Actions by the Meeting is provided in Paragraph 3 of this paper.**

References	Doc 9750, Global Air Navigation Plan Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan — Africa-Indian Ocean Region APIRG Procedural Handbook APIRG AAO/SG and IIM/SG Meeting Reports.
Strategic Objectives	*A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APIRG has established regional priorities, implementation indicators and targets in air navigation capacity and efficiency for the regional implementation of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), to address regional safety and air navigation concerns, as reflected in the Group and its contributory bodies work programmes.

1.2 APIRG and its Contributory bodies have made progress in the implementation of assigned activities however; some challenges including new ones identified in the last year still exist.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   Although the level of implementation has improved since APIRG/26, the region continued to experience several challenges.

2.2   It was noted that the number of experts supporting the regional activities has been diminishing in the recent past due to natural attrition within the States without replacement as well as inadequate capacity by the experts within the States to support the APIRG activities.

2.3   The need for data and insufficient reporting are also factors that slow down the implementation of activities in the AFI Region.

2.4   Some States' participation in the APIRG and its contributory bodies' activities is low due to lack of funds to sponsor the participation of their experts to in-presence or virtual activities (poor internet connectivity).

2.5   Availability of affordable training is still a challenge. Most of the training courses developed by training institutions are usually in English, not allowing States speaking other languages to participate. These include some of the training provided by ICAO, calling for consideration to develop courses in at least the two main languages of the region.

2.6   The limited awareness of the required support at the level of policy makers in entities supporting aviation activities was also noted; especially in areas, that cuts across different ministries or agencies e.g. civil/military cooperation, search and rescue and aerodrome certification. It was noted that there is need to provide awareness to the decision makers through accessible and appropriate forums.

2.7   The region is also facing a poor reporting culture and lack of implementation of the 'Just Culture' by many Organisations or Administrations. Fear of punitive action when one reports incidents especially when it is self-reporting is a hindrance to full realization of the operationalization of the Air Navigation Deficiency Database and/or the collection of data on ATS incidents.

2.8   Low level of understanding at the technical level of the requirements for implementation of some of the concepts e.g. PBCS, SLOP, RVSM data submission, Instrument Flight Procedures promulgation and approval process etc. further contributes to implementation challenges. The development of guidance material,

enhanced awareness programmes and appropriate policies of recruiting and retention of experts has been noted as possible solutions.

2.9   Inadequate national regulations to support some of the APIRG conclusions/decisions also contribute to the low implementation in some areas, these include regulations in support of but not limited to SLOP, flexible use of airspace, search and rescue, interoperability of ANS systems, reporting of ATS incidents.

2.10   States and Organizations are therefore called upon to increase their support to APIRG related activities through tangible actions, which include active participation of their experts in all APIRG related activities, review of national policies and regulations to support collaboration amongst all aviation related stakeholders and improve their reporting systems.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

a) Take note of the information in this paper;
b) Request States and Organizations to take actions as appropriate; and
c) Provide further guidance to address the challenges.