



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Tenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the Africa-Indian Ocean
(RASG-AFI/10)

7 November 2024

Agenda Item 4: Status of implementation of the GASP safety goals, targets and indicators including the priorities set for the RASG-AFI Region

Establishment of a pool of aircraft accident investigators

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
<p>This working paper presents some challenges faced by the Africa, Indian Ocean (AFI) region in the field of Aircraft Accident Investigation (AIG) and proposes the establishment of a Pool of Aircraft Accident Investigators as a mechanism to overcome the shortage of human resources in this area and to improve the AIG systems in the region.</p>	
<p>Actions by the Meeting are developed in section 3 of this working paper.</p>	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	A - Safety

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The meeting may recall the RASG-AFI/9 meeting Conclusion 9/09 on Accident Investigation Reports, that urged States to comply with accident and incident investigation reporting requirements.
- 1.2 Indeed, the Aircraft Accident Investigation (AIG) has the lowest level of effective implementation. The USOAP-CMA results of the AFI region in AIG highlight the qualification and training of technical personnel as significant challenge faced by States, which do not have sufficient investigators with the required skills and competencies.
- 1.3 Factors contributing to aircraft accident investigators shortage include limited resources, lack of training opportunities and insufficient cooperation among African States. This hampers the overall effectiveness and performance of aircraft accident investigations on the continent.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. The meeting may recall the ICAO Resolution A41-10: Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices specifically related to air navigation, APPENDIX - N, on the Cooperation among Member States in the investigation of aircraft accidents, which recommends that Member States cooperate in the investigation of aircraft accidents and that, to this end, Member States and Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOs) shall, to the extent possible, inter alia,
- a) provide, at the request of other Member States, expert assistance and facilities for the investigation of major aircraft accidents; and
 - b) provide opportunities for Member States seeking investigation experience to participate in aircraft accident investigations in the interest of developing and enhancing investigative expertise.
- 2.2. Member States were also encouraged to support the convening of regional accident investigation workshops to exchange information on national investigation laws and procedures, to share knowledge and expertise on investigation management and techniques, on the availability of experts and facilities, and on practices in dealing with accident investigation difficulties.
- 2.3. To this end, the ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices, in coordination with EASA, organized from 6 to 8 May 2002 an Accident Investigation Workshop (AIG). This workshop, held in the framework of the EU-funded EU-Africa Safety in Aviation (EU-ASA) project, was attended by more than 100 accident investigators and experts from African Accident Investigation Authorities, Civil Aviation Authorities, ANSPs, RAIOs and RSOOs.
- 2.4. The following issues were discussed:
- Establishment of a pool of African accident/incident investigators;
 - Link between the State Safety Programme (SSP) and Aircraft Accident/Incident Investigation; and
 - Use of ECCAIRS 2 in relation to Annex 13 and Annex 19 of the Chicago Convention.
- 2.5. In order to enhance effective implementation in the AIG, the Workshop recognized challenges expressed by African States regarding the implementation of accident and incident investigation systems, and proposed to AFI Plan to coordinate with stakeholders and partners on the following:
- Establishment of a network of investigators in the Africa-Indian Ocean region in line with the RSOO study; and
 - Designation of a lead organization to guide the establishment of the investigators network.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- 3.1. Take note of the information provided; and
- 3.2. Review the workshop proposals and advise on the way forward.