



ICAO

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**

**Tenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group for the AFI Region (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**

**4.3. Other Safety initiatives**

**INAUGURAL SAFETY AND OPERATIONS SUMMIT REPORT**

*(Presented by AFRAA)*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This paper presents the Inaugural Safety and Operations Summit Report.</p> <p>The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and Flight Safety Foundation jointly organized the inaugural African Aviation Safety and Operations Summit on May 15, 2024, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.</p> <p>The event is held annually in May, concurrently with the AFRAA Stakeholders Convention. The exact date is announced each year prior to the event.</p> <p><b>Action by Meeting</b> The proposed action to the meeting is as per paragraph 3 of this paper.</p>	
<b>References:</b>	<b>REFERENCE(S)</b> APIRG Reports.
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<b>A</b> - Aviation Safety.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Safety is a top priority for the African Airlines Association (AFRAA). In line with AFRAA strategic objectives, the organization prioritize initiatives to enhance safety across the continent. The organizational advocacy for regional safety coordination is a crucial initiative dedicated to promoting 'Better Skies in Africa.

1.2 The safety performance of the African aviation industry is still behind that of the rest of the world. Nevertheless, the demand for air transport is rising each year, leading the region to record more flights.

1.3 Safety is the most critical concern for the African aviation industry. AFRAA and Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) strive to express a cooperative/collaborative approach, focusing on implementing globally accepted standards and best practices.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 AFRAA and FSF jointly organized the inaugural African Aviation Safety and Operations Summit on May 15, 2024, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. The one-day summit, themed "*Championing Africa Aviation Safety Together*" aimed to promote and improve safety standards within the African aviation sector. It brought together aviation stakeholders to discuss, strategize, and collaborate on shaping a safer future for African aviation. The summit addressed various aviation safety and operations facets, offering stakeholders a forum to discuss and exchange best practices.

2.2 The summit commenced with a snapshot of the region's aviation safety landscape. It focused on the strides and challenges addressed and a roadmap for sustaining and advancing safety in African skies. While the African aviation industry's safety performance has improved in recent years, more progress is needed to achieve global safety targets through the Abuja safety targets. Indeed, the absence of accidents does not necessarily mean the presence of safety.

2.3 Participants were presented with data on accidents and serious incidents to highlight high-risk categories in the region, prompting panelists to collectively explore and address underlying factors driving safety trends in African aviation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) global and regional high-risk categories remain a significant concern for Africa, especially regarding runway excursions, with eight occurrences reported from January to May 2024.

2.4 The summit focused on safety culture and organizational leadership, examining the role of leadership in fostering a robust safety culture within aviation organizations. This included promoting open reporting systems, learning from incidents, training, and encouraging continuous improvement. Participants stressed the importance of a safety culture in ensuring safe operations in any organization, emphasizing the need to prioritize safety as a core value, from leadership to frontline workers.

2.5 Throughout the one-day summit, participants exchanged insights on the day's topics, issues, and challenges. They discussed how brainstorming could improve safety and bolster resilience in addressing ICAO global and regional high-risk areas. Participants called for more collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders to effectively implement safety requirements and best practices, including technology and automation, which are crucial for ensuring safety, efficiency, and growth in the aviation industry.

2.6 Some other predominant challenges highlighted were in the following areas:

- ❖ Air navigation infrastructure safety and airport infrastructure safety;
- ❖ Capacity/capability of safety oversight bodies;
- ❖ Lack of effective safety data collection/information sharing, data-driven safety management; and,
- ❖ Investigation of all accidents and serious incidents.

2.7 The inaugural Safety and Operations Summit identified a strong need for the establishment of priority actions:

- ❖ Commitment to safety;
- ❖ Operationalization of existing initiatives – runway excursion;
- ❖ Establishment of collaborative safety enhancement groups; and
- ❖ More specific training.

2.8 The Safety and Operations Summit, serviced by AFRAA and FSF, brings regional air operators' perspectives to the annual AFI Regional Aviation Safety Report published at AFI Aviation Weeks.

2.9 More details of the Summit are in annex 1 to this working paper.

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the Inaugural Safety & Operations Summit report in this working paper and invite the aviation stakeholders to attend this annual safety event; and
- b) Endorse the integration of Safety & Operations Recommendations in the annual AFI Regional Aviation Safety Report.