



**TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY
IN AFRICA (AFI PLAN)**

Libreville, Gabon, 16 – 17 July 2024

**Agenda Item 5: Proposed Update of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for
Aviation Safety in Africa Programme for the period of 2025-30**

(Presented by the AFI Plan Secretariat)

SUMMARY

In 2022, the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) evaluated the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan). One of the key outcomes of the evaluation report is that the AFI Plan is a relevant programme supporting States in improving aviation safety oversight capacity.

The AFI Plan Programme Document updating, considered the OIO evaluation recommendations as well as the ICAO Council and the 41st Assembly support to the Plan, to serve as a guiding planning framework from 2025-2030.

The continued implementation of the AFI Plan in an effective and systematic manner in all safety-related areas, and in full alignment with the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) has significantly contributed to the progress made by African States towards achieving the GASP and GANP objectives.

This paper presents a brief background, the progress made in the implementation of the AFI Plan and its associated work programme and an updated planning framework for the coming six-year period from 2025 to 2030)

Action: *The Steering Committee is invited to:*

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) consider the proposed updated set of AFI Plan Programme Document provisions intended to guide the implementation of activities during the planning period (2025-30) presented as Attachment A to this Paper; and
- c) request States, international and regional organizations, financing institutions, and industry to continue supporting the programme.

<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	This discussion paper relates to the Safety and Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objectives
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) was endorsed by the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly and established by the Secretary General on 1 January 2008 to address civil aviation safety deficiencies in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) region. The programme has since been providing assistance to States with a focus on the establishment and implementation of effective and sustainable safety oversight systems; resolution of identified safety deficiencies and fostering of aviation safety culture in Africa.

1.2. In 2009, the ICAO Council decided that the Programme activities should be integrated into the ICAO Regional Offices' regular work programme as of January 2010. Even though the activities are integrated to the Regional Offices' activities, the programme initiated by AFI Plan continues to function as a specific Africa-wide ICAO project since 2010.

1.3. The AFI Plan Programme was evaluated in 2015 and 2022 by the ICAO Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) with a view to provide an independent review of the programme performance in accordance with the original and subsequent updates of the Programme Document. The evaluation reviewed the relevance, design, management and governance of the programme since its inception and made several recommendations to ensure effective and continued implementation of the programme.

1.4. One of the key recommendations called for the review and amendment of the AFI Plan Document to ensure that it remains relevant and in line with the changing dynamics subject to its continuation beyond the current cycle of the programme scheduled to end in December 2024. Accordingly, the programme document was revised by the Secretariat for the period from 2025 to 2030 for the Steering Committee's consideration.

2. UPDATED AFI PLAN PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR 2025-2030

2.1 The programme continues to register gains towards the attainment of the GASP goals and targets including the improvement of Effective Implementation (EI) of the Critical Elements of States' safety oversight systems, resolution of significant safety concerns (SSCs), establishment and strengthening of regional safety oversight and accident and incident investigation organizations (RSOOs/RAIOs); and capacity building through various training activities.

2.2 In addition to the traditional State support mechanism, the AFI Plan has adopted a project-based approach since 2016. Since then, projects have been developed, presented to and approved by the AFI Plan steering committee (SC) and are currently being implemented in the areas of Aerodrome Certification, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review, State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation, Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation (AIG), the Fundamentals of Safety Oversight (FSO) and Aeronautical Information Management (AIM), so as to further assist States in achieving a sustainable aviation safety level. These projects with a revised scope and additional ones will be presented to the SC overtime aligned with the scope and timeframe of the programme to serve achieving the broad and specific programme objectives.

2.3 Although progress in enhancing aviation safety in Africa has been achieved as a result of the work and actions undertaken through the AFI Plan and aviation partners, it is broadly

recognized and agreed that additional efforts, resources and time are required, not only to achieve the targets set out in the Global Aviation Safety Plan including resolution of SSCs and other safety deficiencies in the region, but also to retain this momentum and thus ensure sustainability.

2.4 In this context of sustainability and considering the effort that has been made by ICAO through the AFI Plan to improve aviation Safety in Africa, the ICAO Council presented a working paper (A41-WP/103) at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. The Working Paper presents the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Implementation Plan for Aviation Safety in Africa (AFI Plan) and recommends the continuation of the AFI Plan beyond 2024, with focus on all safety and air navigation capacity and efficiency related areas, including aviation infrastructure planning.

2.5 The revised AFI Plan Programme Document was therefore draftedⁱ by the Secretariat for the period from 2025 to 2030 considering the call for the continuation of the programme by ICAO Council and the support of the 41st session of the ICAO Assembly. In this context, the draft revised programme document considers (inter alia) the following elements :

- a) the progress made in aviation safety in the AFI region since the inception of the AFI Plan;
- b) the integration of the AFI Plan activities into the work programme of the ICAO Regional Offices;
- c) the level of maturity of State's safety performance; and
- d) the critical aviation professional capacity in the region.

2.6 Furthermore, the implementing and monitoring mechanism, the Regional Office Safety Team (ROST) terms of reference and the programme governing/management mechanism were reviewed for the effective and efficient implementation of the programme.

2.7 The originally identified focus areas of the AFI Plan including the provision of assistance to States whilst focusing on the establishment and implementation of effective and sustainable safety oversight systems; resolution of identified deficiencies; and fostering of aviation safety culture in Africa including the aviation infrastructure gap analysis are still relevant hence, are included in the 2025-2030 draft revised Programme Document.

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ⁱ Additional provisions for sections 5, 6 and 11 are still under development and will be inserted in the AFI Plan document when the necessary coordination is completed with relevant stakeholders.