Challenges and European efforts to enhance aviation safety in Africa

Frank Steffens
Head of International Cooperation Department
25/04/2017
Aviation in Africa - Context

- Low intra-African air connection
- Low passenger traffic, but increasing steadily
- Only 25% of African airlines have an IATA code
- Two African airports in the world’s 150 top airports
- Average intra-African fare is around a 1/3 higher per kilometer than intra-European fares
- Negative impact on free movement of people and goods – disadvantage for young generation

24/04/2017 Challenges and European efforts to enhance aviation safety in Africa
Aviation safety – Overview

- Africa represents 3% of global air traffic, but 20% of accidents and fatalities
- 3 of 7 currently active ICAO SSCs are in Africa
- 15 States have operational restrictions with regard to European airspace
- Current average USOAP EI score for States in Africa is 50.03% which is below the world average of 64.28%
Aviation safety – Challenges

- Organisational issue
- Personnel qualification
- Oversight implementation and resolution of deficiencies
Aviation safety – Organisational issue

- Many NAAs in Africa are not tooled to fully carry out their oversight obligations
- The pay structure is not so attractive to keep the personnel in charge of the oversight
- Structural weaknesses that hinders keeping up to date the regulation and the associated guidance material
Aviation safety – Personnel qualification

- Training plan and programmes not always adequately designed
- Financial resources not always available to implement the training programmes
- OJT often lacking practical experience
- There is no sustainable African system in place to carry out training of the technical personnel – heavy reliance on non-African structures
- Need to educate young professionals
Aviation safety – Oversight implementation

- Yearly oversight programme not always fully implemented
- The lessons learned from an oversight visit rarely taken into account to tailor the next visit
- The follow-up of detected safety deficiencies is not adequately done, nor tracked
- The link with SMS and SSP not established
European efforts - Background

The EC has financially supported the improvement of aviation safety in Africa for many years.

The EU institutions have mandated EASA to carry out technical cooperation activities.

EASA is the preferred partner of the EC for aviation safety related technical assistance.
Established 2002

15 years in operation

800+ aviation experts & administrators

Headquarters in Cologne
Office in Brussels

32 EASA member states = 28 + 4
EU + Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein
European efforts – EASA (2/2)

- Draft legislation in all fields pertinent to the EASA mission
- Certify & approve products and organisations, in fields where EASA has exclusive competence
- Provide oversight and support to Member States in fields where EASA has shared competence
- Promote the use of European and worldwide standards
- Cooperate with international actors in order to achieve the highest safety level
Regional approach to safety

- EASA as the European Regional Safety Oversight Organisation (RSOO) promotes this regional approach.
- An RSOO Forum was co-organised by EASA and ICAO in Swaziland in March 2017 addressing issues such as:
  - Benefits and challenges of the regional approach
  - Financial aspects and sustainability
  - Pooling of resources, processes and staff
- Participants
  - More than 200 participants from 48 States worldwide and 32 international organisations
  - 13 African Ministers on the last day
- Outcome:
  - Roadmap and action plan for further development of RSOOs
  - Endorsement by a Ministerial Declaration
Closed or on-going projects

**SIASA closed**
- Support to the Improvement of Aviation Safety in Africa
- Ended mid October 2016

**CAASP**
- Central Africa Aviation Safety Project (also known in French as ATA-AC)
- Extended until Dec. 2017
- Focus on regulation, training and main aerodrome assessment

**IASOM**
- Improvement of Aviation Safety Oversight in Malawi
- Extended until June 2017
Future Projects

**EU-ASAP**
- Follow-up of the SIASA project
- Will start early 2018
- Special focus on RSOOs

**Zambia**
- Contract under negotiation under the 11th EDF
- Will start in 2017

**SATSD in EA-SA-IO**
- Support to Air Transport Sector Development (SATSD) in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region (EA-SA-IO)
- Will start 2nd semester 2018
End slide

Your safety is our mission.