

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Interim SADC Aviation Safety Organisation (iSASO) held, from 9-11 May 2022, a workshop to build the capacity to draft civil aviation regulations for the National Safety Inspectors (NSIs). The workshop was held in Ezulwini, Eswatini and was made possible through funding from the European Union – Africa Safety in Aviation (EU-ASA) project. The project aims to improve aviation safety in the African region by targeting the safety oversight activities at regional levels.

The workshop was by attended 37 NSIs who were nominated by 11 SADC States from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They were drawn from all the five safety-related domains namely Airworthiness, Aerodromes & Ground Aids, Air Navigation Services, Personnel Licencing and Flight Operations. The programme was moderated by 5 experts from the European Aviation Safety Administration (EASA).

Key milestones achieved during the workshop include determination of the templates that will be used to draft the SADC generic regulations, selection of focal persons to coordinate the regulations drafting in each domain, and adoption of a roadmap which targets completion of the project in early 2023.

Key observation from the workshop was results from the audits conducted under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Programme (USOAP) and other ICAO missions that have determined that many States have not established effective safety oversight systems, thereby creating the risk for unsafe conditions. It was noted that within the SADC region several existing aviation regulations in the Member States are out of date and as a consequence, the states fail to provide the legal foundation for safety oversight.

The NSI experts noted that, the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology requires Member States to harmonize their policies and procedures on civil aviation and foster the development of international civil aviation through cooperative arrangements. To address these gaps, the iSASO aims to assist the SADC States by developing a generic set of civil aviation regulations which the Member States can adapt and use to harmonize their own national regulations. In this fashion, safety oversight within the SADC region is considerably facilitated through the harmonization of regulations.

The workshop was characterized by active participation and enthusiastic contributions by the NSIs which received many positive comments from both the participants and the expert consultants. A generic set of

regulations will make it possible for SADC Member States to adapt their national regulations to the same standard thereby harmonizing the basic tenet of civil aviation in the SADC region.