**Concept paper**

**SASO, the way forward for SADC**

# Background

The aim of SASO, established by SADC Member States through a Charter and organized under the Principle of Subsidiarity, is to promote the safe and efficient use and development of civil aviation within the SADC region. It will accomplish this by assisting SADC Member States in meeting their safety oversight obligations and responsibilities as outlined under the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944 and its safety-related Annexes and Documents.

According to the iSASO three-year strategic plan, the following activities are to be implemented in the first year:

* + 1. Establish SASO administratively;
    2. Launch / Initiate SASO- National Safety Inspectors (NSI) Programme;
    3. Revise SADC Generic Regulations (SGRs) + SADC Generic Procedures (SGPs) (OPS/AIR/PEL) and SASO Manual.

It is against this background that iSASO Secretariat in collaboration with EASA herein calls for the convening of a workshop on 20 May 2021.

# Workshop Summary

# Overall objective

The purpose of this workshop is to move toward the full operationalization of SASO so that tangible benefits can be provided by the organization to its Member States, and in particular, the set up National Safety Inspectors (NSI) Programme.

# Expected outcomes

the proposed workshop is aimed at assisting with a better recognition of the iSASO by the Member States and also setting up of a pool of NSIs.

# Indicators of achievement

* + 1. National Safety Inspectors registered with iSASO (Pooling of safety inspectors);
    2. Improved recognition of iSASO amongst Member States;
    3. Increased efficiency amongst Member States on safety related issues;
    4. Improved financial support from Member States;
    5. Improved participation in iSASO safety programmes and initiatives;
    6. Ratification of the SASO Charter by all Member States.

# Means to achieve indicators

In order to achieve the indicators and particularly the first one, iSASO can take advantage of the EU funded project EU-Africa Safety in Aviation (EU-ASA), which particularly meant to assist African RSOOs in the following results areas:

1. RSOOs reinforced
2. Safety oversight regulation improved
3. Better safety oversight
4. Safety data analyzed

# Main activities

the workshop will consist of presentations from ICAO (Headquarter and ESAF regional office), EASA, AFCAC and the SADC Infrastructure Directorate focusing on safety related issues within the region and globally. A panel of Experts will be presenting on the role of RSOO particularly iSASO and also clarify the respective role of iSASO Member States towards their RSOO and vice versa.

# Key target participants and beneficiaries

1. Directors General of Civil Aviation
2. Directors of Departments of Civil Aviation
3. Qualified National Inspectors
4. Southern African Development Community – Infrastructure Directorate
5. ICAO Regional Safety Oversight Organizations Cooperative Platform (RSOO CP)
6. African Union Commission
7. ICAO Eastern & Southern African (ESAF) Regional Office
8. African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)
9. Interim SADC Aviation Safety Organization (iSASO)
10. European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
11. Ministries responsible for Civil Aviation

# PROCESS

The workshop will be participatory and be supported by simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Portuguese.

# DATE AND VENUE OF THE MEETING

The workshop is taking place virtually on 20 May 2021. The Information Note including the online meeting registration and participation links shall be circulated in due course.