Global Air Navigation Plan

To ensure that continuous Safety improvement and Air Navigation modernization continue to advance hand-in-hand, ICAO has developed a strategic systems approach linking progress in both areas under complimentary frameworks reflected in linked Global Plans. These will now support States and stakeholders as they seek to realize the safe, sustained growth, increased efficiency and environmental responsibility that global societies and economies now require.

This represents aviation’s core challenge, both today and over the ensuing decades, and this is why ICAO has worked so closely in recent years with partner organizations such as IATA, ACI, CANSO, the FSF, IFALPA, IFATCA, IBAC, IAOA and the ICCAI, among many other key stakeholders, as the Organization has developed its new strategic course.

A Strategy for Success in Global Air Navigation

Harmonized performance and infrastructure/avionics improvements in the Air Navigation domain are led by the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (Global Plan) and the aviation system Block Upgrade strategy it outlines. The Block Upgrades are to be implemented and refined through the annual Air Navigation tactical work programme, which in turn will guide Global Plan revisions on a triennial basis through the ICAO Assembly.

ICAO’s Global Air Navigation Plan (Global Plan) establishes Policy-level Air Navigation system objectives. These will be based largely on the Aviation System Block Upgrade ATM modernization strategy developed collaboratively by States and industry. Regional work programmes will be derived from the Global Plan and tactical adjustments to the work programmes will be made annually and reviewed by the ICAO Air Navigation Commission.

Standards for Block 0 have been completed and their implementation is underway. Block 1 Standards deliverables are being evaluated and are expected to be undertaken after the results of the 12th Air Navigation Conference have been incorporated.

Analysis

Analysis of reporting data is carried out collaboratively with ICAO’s partners. Results will be published in the annual ICAO Global Air Navigation Report, which then helps determine tactical implementation adjustments to the regional work programme. The first edition of the Air Navigation Report is currently planned for 2014.
Implementation & Monitoring

Implementation & Monitoring is overseen by ICAO’s Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs). The PIRGs also serve as regional “engines” to continuously pursue air navigation objectives, consolidating regional analyses and reporting and sharing these results online with States and industry partners. Analysis and reporting results are further analyzed by ICAO HQ for global trends and transparency will be assured by the Air Navigation Report and online Regional Dashboards ICAO is establishing to provide real-time assessments of progress against agreed targets.

Aviation System Block Upgrades

Only by bringing together the States and stakeholders from every corner of the aviation community could a practical and flexible solution to twenty-first century Air Navigation be determined. ICAO therefore began an intense round of collaboration in 2011 supporting these efforts, including the first-of-its-kind Global Air Navigation Industry Symposium (GANIS). A great debt of gratitude is owed to the Technical Team of States, stakeholders and partner organizations who leveraged these industry inputs and brought a realistic level of detail to the Block Upgrade concept. Their work built on the efforts of all of the expert groups that have supported aviation’s evolution in recent years.

The Block Upgrades and their capacity-improving Modules define a programmatic and flexible global systems engineering approach allowing all regions to advance their Air Navigation capacities based on their specific operational requirements. This will permit all States and stakeholders to realize the global-harmonization, increased capacity, and improved environmental efficiency that modern air traffic growth now demands in every region around the world.

More importantly, the Block Upgrade strategy represents the logical outcome of the CNS/ATM planning and concepts found in the Global Plan’s previous three editions. It additionally ensures continuity with the performance and operational concepts previously defined by ICAO in earlier Air Navigation manuals and documents.

If the air transport system is to continue to drive global economic prosperity and social development to the extent our community and the world have grown accustomed to, especially in the face of dramatic regional traffic growth projections and the pressing need for more determined and effective climate-related stewardship, States must fully embrace the new Block Upgrade strategy and follow a unified path to the future global Air Navigation system.

For more information on ICAO’s Air Navigation Strategic Planning, visit: www.icao.int/sustainability/pages/GANP

Or contact ICAO’s Air Navigation Bureau via: anb@icao.int