1. INTRODUCTION

The East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (EAC-CASSOA) was established following the signing of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency on 18th April 2007. The mandate of CASSOA is based on Article 92 of the EAC Treaty, under which the Partner States undertake to make Air Transport services safe, efficient and profitable; adopt common policies for the development of Civil Air transport in the Region; harmonise Civil Aviation Laws and Regulations and coordinate measures and co-operate in the maintenance of high security.

The specific functions of the Agency are to:

- Develop policies on the development of safe, reliable, efficient and economically viable Civil Aviation with a view to developing appropriate infrastructure, aeronautical skills and technology as well as the role of Civil Aviation in support of other economic activities;
- Assist the Partner States in meeting their safety and security oversight obligations and responsibilities under the Treaty and the Chicago Convention and its Annexes; and
- Provide the Partner States with an appropriate forum and structure to discuss, plan and implement common measures required for achieving the safe and orderly development of international Civil Aviation through the implementation of International Standards and Recommended Practices relating to the Safety and Security of Civil Aviation.

The Agency is based at its Head Quarters in Entebbe, Uganda since March 2010 after being housed at the EAC Head Quarters in Arusha, Tanzania between June 2007 and April 2010. It is governed by a Board which consists of all Heads of Civil Aviation Authorities in the Partner States and Aviation Experts representing these Partner States. Board meetings are held quarterly every year since the Agency’s establishment.

2. ON-GOING PROJECTS

a) 3rd EAC-CASSOA STRATEGIC PLAN FY2020-2025

The 2nd EAC-CASSOA Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is coming to its conclusion and plans are underway for the next EAC-CASSOA Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

b) Automatic Validation of Personnel Licencing in the Region

On 31st March 2017, ICAO issued an Electronic Bulletin No. EB 2017/15 on Automatic Validation of Licences by States Party to a Formal Agreement Under Common Licensing Regulations which can be used by a group of States having Common Licensing Regulations under formal agreement registered by ICAO to improve the mobility of licensed personnel
amongst States. Validation is a means by which a Contracting State recognizes Certificates and Licences issued by another Contracting State giving authority to the holder to exercise the privileges of the licence in that State. The Automatic Validation will supplement the existing central EAC Personnel Licensing Examination System hosted at EAC-CASSOA. The 39th EAC-CASSOA Board approved a Road Map for the implementation of Automatic Validation of Personnel Licences in the EAC region, thereby setting the stage for the roll out of this project.

c) Reviewing, amendment and development of Regulations and Technical Guidance Material

The objective of this ongoing exercise is to review, amend and develop the Draft Model EAC Civil Aviation Regulations in line with the latest editions of the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) before presenting them to EAC Partner States Experts' Working Group meeting for consideration. The current Model EAC Technical Guidance Materials are also being formatted in preparation for dissemination to Partner States following approval by the EAC-CASSOA Board.

d) EAC Harmonised Aviation Examination System

The EAC Civil Aviation Examination System is an initiative launched in May 2014 and which aims to establish a common computerised Personnel Licensing Examination System for Aviation professionals in the Region including Pilots, Flight Engineers, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Air Traffic Controllers and Flight Operations Officers.

The overall goal of this initiative is to improve the safety of Civil Aviation within the Region through harmonisation of Examination Questions for Aviation Personnel. The system, which is a first for a regional economic community on the continent, is targeted to have a databank of 20,000 questions.

EAC-CASSOA is the host of the Examination System, procured from LPLUS GmbH of Germany, while the Partner States will provide the bulk of the Examination Questions to populate the Examinations Bank. The Agency also coordinates several Working Groups responsible for validating and uploading Questions into the Central Repository.

In Financial year 2017/2018, CASSOA procured 10,000 Questions for the Pilots Databank to be populated in the system.

e) Paperless Meetings

EAC CASSOA has managed to operationalize a Document Management System (DMS) by scanning and uploading to DMS 85% of Technical Committees and Board Meeting reports/pre-reads. This initiative has made meetings paperless and hence minimized cost on stationery.

f) Alternative Funding Mechanism

Under the guidance of the Board, the Agency continues engaging with Stakeholders to get their buy-in into the Passenger Levy, by understanding why they never supported the last two prior attempts to fund the Agency. Numerous progress has been made with meetings having been conducted in the Republic of Kenya and planned meetings in the United Republic of Tanzania. In essence the main obstacle is building synergies and ownership. We strongly believe that this attempt will bear fruits.
g) Sharing of Regional Technical Resources

The Agency extends Technical Assistance/support to Partner States through sourcing and coordination of available resources from within the Region to assist those States that require this and/or have requested for it. An approved standard operating procedure is in place to guide on how this is done and is recognised by all Partner States, namely the Order CAA-O-GEN004C.

This Order is issued to provide information and guidance to the Partner States’ Civil Aviation Authority on the procedures to be used within the East African Community Partner States for sharing of technical experts, conducting of cross-border oversight functions, the experts’ credentials, and ethics and personal conduct.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS WITH OTHER CIVIL AVIATION OVERSIGHT ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Agency has established and maintains ongoing relations with the following establishments:

- ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organisation
- AFCAC - African Civil Aviation Commission
- EC - European Commission
- EASA - European Union Aviation Safety Agency
- SADC - Southern African Development Community
- RSOSs - Regional Safety Oversight Organisations, e.g.
  - BAGASOO - Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organisation,
  - ISASO - Interim SADC Aviation Safety Organisation,
  - CASSOS - Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System.
- GOOGLE LOON - Project Loon
- AIRBUS
- EGNOS - European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service
- CAAs - Civil Aviation Authorities, e.g.
  - UK CAAi - United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority International,
  - FAA USA - Federal Aviation Administration of United States of America,
  - SCAA - Singapore Civil Aviation Authority,
  - SA CAA - South Africa Civil Aviation Authority,
  - SCAA - Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority,
  - SCAA - Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority,
  - NCAA - Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority.
- IATA - International Air Transport Association
- AFRAA - African Airlines Association
- Aviation and Allied Business

EAC-CASSOA
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