1. INTRODUCTION:

Further to an initiative by the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, to convene a coordination meeting between African States in the margins of the High Level Safety Conference in Montreal in February 2015, African States and their air navigation service providers (ANSPs) agreed to implement a detailed and coordinated peer review mechanism to address critical safety issues in air traffic management (ATM). It was further agreed that CANSO should be the coordinating secretariat of this initiative.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE AFRICA ATM SAFETY PEER REVIEW INITIATIVE

The objectives of the peer review initiative are to:

2.1 Initiate peer review and support activities among willing African ANSPs to exchange best practices and experiences on enhancing ATM safety and implementing safety management systems (SMS). This will support continuous overall improvement in ATM and aviation safety in Africa in a consistent, measurable and sustainable manner.

2.2 Assess and evaluate the implementation of safety management systems (SMS) by each participating ANSP, based on the CANSO Standard of Excellence in Safety Management Systems (SoE in SMS), the CANSO Safety Management System Implementation Guide and the related CANSO SMS questionnaire, which
are fully aligned with ICAO Annex 19 Safety Management, and the *ICAO Safety Management Manual* (Doc 9859); and identify specific areas for improvement.

2.3 Enable participating ANSPs to standardise the elements of their SMSs, thus facilitating enhanced data analysis, safety risk management and performance measurement, which are enablers for higher overall levels of safety performance.

2.4 Provide a mechanism to ensure the sharing of best practices and experiences in ATM safety management systems in Africa.

2.5 Encourage the widest possible participation in the initiative by African ANSPs, including both CANSO Members and non-Members.

2.6 Determine SMS maturity levels and communicate these to the satisfaction of ICAO and ANSP regulators to reduce the need for regulator assessments and/or ICAO audits.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The tools identified to review the SMS of each Partner States will be:

- CANSO SoE in SMS
- CANSO SMS Implementation Guide
- CANSO SMS questionnaire

3.2 The questionnaire will be used as the basic guide for the initiative and will be supplemented by a specific manual to be produced for this Africa ATM Safety Peer Review Initiative

3.3 Each participating ANSP shall establish a team comprising its appropriate safety managers and coordinators. ANSPs will form small groups, ideally of 3-4 ANSPs. The nominated teams from each ANSP will then visit each of the other ANSPs in the group to conduct the peer reviews.

3.4 A representative of CANSO, as secretariat, will be present to act as an observer and offer support

3.5 The questionnaire referenced in 3.1 comprises questions designed to report on the level of implementation of SMS. Each question provides five levels (A-E) from which a State chooses one that reflects their status of implementation. The safety manager/coordinator/officer of the State visited will indicate to the team the level
selected, provide evidence for the level chosen for the team to evaluate and agree with the choice or most appropriate level.

3.6 Given that participating ANSPs/States are already implementing SMS with reference to the ICAO framework, they will also be required to provide a brief report on the status of SMS implementation with reference to that framework.

4. COMMITMENT

As Members of CANSO in Africa and on behalf of CANSO, we are delighted to:

- Declare full support for and commitment to the Africa ATM Safety Peer Review Initiative
- Confirm and welcome the appointment of CANSO as the secretariat of the Initiative
- Commit to participate in at least one peer review team to realise the objective of this initiative to improve ATM and aviation safety in Africa
- Share openly within the appropriate peer review group all the necessary data and information to ensure successful assessment and evaluation; and also to share our own best practices within the field of SMS
- Share the results of the peer reviews with other ANSP participants in the Initiative, and with ICAO
- Commit to implementing quickly and effectively all findings of the peer reviews and to establishing specific work programmes to progress towards the next level of SMS maturity.

We truly hope that the initiative we have formed will be long lasting and beneficial for all parties and will contribute to improving ATM and aviation safety in Africa. We truly believe that this is the beginning of a significant and special change to further improve ATM safety management and performance in Africa.
The following have signed the Declaration as at 13 September 2016

**Ghana:** Simon Allotey, Director General, Ghana CAA

**Kenya:** Gilbert Kibe, Director General Kenya CAA, Member of CANSO Executive Committee

**Mozambique:** Emanuel Chaves, Chairman, Aeroportos de Moçambique

**Morocco:** Zouhair Mohammed El Aoufir, Director General, Moroccan Airports Authority

**Nigeria:** Emmanuel Onyemaechi Anasi, Acting Managing Director, Nigeria Airspace

**South Africa:** Thabani Mthiyane, CEO ATNS, Vice Chair CANSO Executive Committee, Chair CANSO Africa CEO Committee

**Tanzania:** Hamza Johari, Director General, Tanzania CAA

**Uganda:** Rama Makuza, Managing Director, CAA Uganda

**Zambia:** Robinson Misitala, Managing Director, National Airports Corporation Ltd.

**CANSO:** Jeff Poole, Director General