IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS REGULATION C/REG.13/12/2024 ON HARMONIZING AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS IN WEST AFRICA

CONSULTANCY TITLE	**Selection of an Aviation Security Expert (Consultant) to support the implementation of the new Regional AVSEC Regulation of ECOWAS**
INSTITUTION	ECOWAS Commission
FUNDING	ECOWAS Commission
DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure, Energy & Digitalization
DIRECTORATE	Transport
DIVISION	Air Transport

ROLE OVERVIEW

1. Article 32 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty, 1993, entrusted the Transport Directorate with ensuring a harmonious integration of transport infrastructure and services of Member States and the promotion and facilitation of movement of persons, goods and services within the Community.

2. Article 32(1) of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty commits Member States to:
   - Paragraph (f): Encourage co-operation in flight scheduling, leasing of aircraft and granting joint use of fifth freedom rights to airlines in the region.
   - Paragraph (g): Promote the development of regional air transportation services and endeavor to bring about the merger of national airlines in order to promote their efficiency and profitability.

3. Air Transport sector is a part of the ECOWAS Transport Improvement Program in accordance with the above Article 32 (f) & (g). Subsequently the Authority of Heads of State and Government through Decision A/DEC.6/12/03 dated 19 December, 2003, adopted a regional agreement towards the Liberalization of the Air Transport sector in West Africa including an Air Transport Action Plan (revised ECOWAS Air Transport Action Plan 2014-2020). The Authority at its 40th Ordinary Summit on 17th February 2025, also adopted nine (9) ECOWAS Air Transport Supplementary Acts (Regional Laws) which cover very strategic areas in air transport including the Compensation in the event of Denied Boarding, Liberalization of Ground Handling, Airport Slots Allocation, Approval of Air Carrier, Conditions to Market Access, Air Tariffs, Liability in case of Air Accidents, Rules of Competition and Exemptions, and, Aviation Security.

4. Member States of ECOWAS are also signatories to global texts such as the Chicago Convention signed on 7th December, 1944 and its annexes, and the Yamoussoukro Decision relating to the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa, 1999, as well as the Solemn Declaration on the Single African Air transport Market (SAATM), one of the flagship projects of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

5. ECOWAS places a high level of premium on Aviation Security, as it embodies a a set of measures taken within an airport to reduce the risk of malicious acts that could cause damage to property and people, such as acts of terrorism. Security measures covered include the screening of passengers and their baggage at check-in and boarding, but also the monitoring of movements in terminals and on runways, as well as in the vicinity of aircraft.

6. Analysis of the results of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP), as well as other sources of information, reveal that aviation security in Africa generally shows some systemic deficiencies in the areas of regulation, oversight and operations resulting in unsatisfactory implementation of the standards contained in ICAO Annex 17 — Security. Challenges faced by States include inadequate legislation, (law and Technical Regulations), insufficient or

inefficient infrastructure as the case may be, lack of human (qualified) and financial resources.

7. Aviation security (AVSEC) is a critical part of ensuring the safe and secure operation of air transport. In the context of West Africa, many ECOWAS Member States face challenges in meeting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) security standards. To address these challenges, ECOWAS has commenced a set of measures by adopting Regulation C/REG.13/12/2024, which outlines common rules for aviation security in ECOWAS Member States. This regulation, annexed to the previously adopted Supplementary Act A/SP.11/02/12 by the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State and Government on 17 February 2012, was officially approved and signed by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in December 2024.

8. The new ECOWAS Regulation has created a Regional Pool of Aviation Security (AVSEC) Experts under ECOWAS to assist Member States in meeting the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), through the implementation of the ECOWAS Regulations on Aviation Security.

9. The Transport Directorate intends to operationalize the Regional AVSEC Pool to augment the presence of qualified human resources at regional level to assist Member States. Given the importance of the tasks to be carried out by the Regional ASEC Pool and the geographical distribution of experts, the ECOWAS Commission intends to engage an **Aviation Security Expert (Consultant**) to support the Directorate of Transport in implementing the above regulations and related aviation security matters.

10.The purpose of this ToR is to outline the recruitment criteria and tasks for the **Aviation Security Expert** to be included in the coordination unit.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The services provided under this contract mainly concern the support to the Transport Directorate in the implementation of Aviation Security tasks as provided in the above cited Regulation. Specifically, the Expert's Roles and Responsibilities will include:

- ✓ provide technical assistance in the monitoring and implementation of the ECOWAS AVSEC Pool of Experts
- ✓ support the implementation of the ECOWAS AVSEC Regulation of 2024 towards the harmonization of Aviation Security Measures across ECOWAS Member States.
- ✓ Prepare technical missions, set up teams of experts for missions in the States.
- ✓ develop and implement methodological tools for conducting control activities.
- ✓ recommend initial and recurrent training courses for experts.
- ✓ conduct studies, seminars, workshops and other activities aimed at enhancing aviation security.
- ✓ provide States with technical advice, guidance and indicative elements concerning the implementation of the Supplementary Act regulating civil aviation security.
- ✓ Prepare and organize meetings of the AVSEC Experts, the Advisory Committee and other related structures.
- ✓ Prepare quarterly and annual reports on the status of implementation of activities, to the Transport

Directorate

- ✓ maintain the training records of the AVSEC Pool of experts including their Curriculum Vitae
- ✓ update the training program for the experts of the AVSEC pool.
- ✓ review the content of the reports of the activities carried out within the States in order to ensure their consistency with the security provisions in force.
- ✓ Ensure that Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) transmitted by the States take into account all non-compliances detected during a quality control activity.
- ✓ organize planned activities to verify the implementation of the CAPs by the States.
- ✓ Advice on the preparation and implementation of Aviation Technical Regulations in compliance with the ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and ICAO Annexes and legal instruments especially the Cape Town Convention and Protocol.
- ✓ Develop short-, medium- and long-term projects, programs and plans to implement the ECOWAS AVSEC Regulation.
- ✓ Support the planning, harmonization and coordination of national aviation technical regulations including aviation security regulations.
- ✓ Monitor international AVSEC regulations with a view to proposing improvements and review of existing Aviation Security Regulations, when necessary.
- ✓ Follow up the development of airport infrastructure, equipment and facilities, the coordination of the Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSP) in the region such as ASECNA, NAMA, Roberts FIR, Accra FIR and Cabo Verde FIR.
- ✓ Contribute to the Certification of all ECOWAS international airports including regular APEX review and reporting, as well as prevention of bird hazard.
- ✓ Contribute to the implementation of the ICAO Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)
- ✓ Monitor and coordinate the activities of the sub-regional organizations for aviation safety oversight organizations such as the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Oversight Organization (BAGASOO) and the ACSSA/UEMOA as well as the Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Bureau (BAGAIA), with a view to harmonize interventions under ECOWAS.
- ✓ Contribute to the establishment of a unique Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (E-RSOO) in West Africa.
- ✓ Contribute to the establishment of a unique Accident Investigation Bureau in West Africa and to a regional mechanism for Search and Rescue in ECOWAS region.
- ✓ set up a software program for managing audit/inspection activities of the pool of experts.
- ✓ Carry out any other project related activities that may be assigned by the Director of Transport of the ECOWAS Commission

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION:

- ➢ Must Hold a BSc. Degree/(Bac+3) in Air Transport, Engineering, Aviation Security and Safety, or any other related

discipline.

EXPERIENCE:

- Duly certified in all ICAO training modules in Aviation Security Training Packages (Basic course, Cargo and Mail Security course, Crisis Management course, Security Management course, National AVSEC Inspectors course, etc.).
- have at least five (5) years' recent professional experience in a competent authority as an AVSEC inspector or in the aviation industry, (airports, aircraft operator, air traffic and other related service providers)
- have a working knowledge of the Chicago Convention and in-depth knowledge of ICAO documents related to AVSEC such as the latest editions covering Annex 17 - Security; Annex 9 - Facilitation; Aviation Security Manual (Doc 8973 - Restricted Circulation); Aviation Security Oversight Manual - Establishment and Management of a National Aviation Security Oversight System (Doc 10047) and Facilitation Manual (Doc. 9957).
- Demonstrate familiarity with international texts on air transport, particularly, **ICAO SARPs**, and AU aviation programs.
- Possess experience working in ECOWAS Region
- Be a national of ECOWAS Member States.

LANGUAGES

Must be fluent in one of the official languages of ECOWAS: English, French or Portuguese, with a good working knowledge of a second official language.

Duration

The duration of this contract is **twelve (12) months**, renewable upon review of performance and availability of budget.

The ECOWAS Commission invites interested and qualified candidates to submit their candidacy to provide the above services through a letter of “Expression of Interest” and Curriculum Vitae, providing clear information on their experience and qualification with respect to the assignment (CV, Certificates, References of similar services demonstrating that they are qualified, description of experiences and tasks in similar assignments, etc.).