



## OUTCOME STATEMENT FROM SADC AVIATION SAFETY ORGANIZATION (SASO) CONFERENCE

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States have agreed to demonstrate commitment to the SADC Aviation Safety Organization (SASO). The aim of SASO is to promote the safe and efficient use and development of civil aviation within the SADC region. This came out of the virtual Conference held on 20 May 2021, under the theme “**SASO, the way forward for SADC**”. The main objective of the Conference was to solicit commitment from Member States to move towards the full operationalization of SASO, so that tangible benefits can be provided by the Organization to its Member States, and in particular, the setting up of the National Safety Inspectors (NSI) Programme.

The Conference was attended by representatives from majority of the SADC Member States. International and regional aviation industry organizations and regional safety oversight entities, namely African Union Commission (AUC), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) and the Banjul Accord Group Aviation Safety Oversight Organization (BAGASOO) were also in attendance.

Notable speakers during the Conference emphasized the importance of working together as a Region and forging relations with other organizations AUC, AFCAC, so as to try and address gaps in the SADC region. Delegates further noted the resources available in the Region and challenged SASO and Member States to ensure that they do not reinvent the wheel but take steps towards learning from mature organizations like the other Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOO's) and eliminate the silo and sovereignty mentality as aviation transcends borders.

Key take home points/messages for Member States from the Conference included but not limited to the following:

- Aviation is the fundamental socio-economic enabler for all Member States therefore ensuring demonstrable commitment to SASO through honoring of financial obligations is important;
- The signing of Charter establishing SASO by the remaining Member States is critical;
- Member States active participation in SASO activities is fundamental; and
- Collaboration, skill sharing, innovation, and participation in the global RSOO's Cooperative Platform by the Secretariat is crucial.

The presentations and discussions made SASO and the participants of the Conference visualize the fruition of the conference slogan “SASO, the way forward for SADC”.

A lot of work awaits the Secretariat and the SADC Region at large.