



International Civil Aviation Organization
Western and Central African Office

**Fourteenth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management/Aeronautical Information Management/Search and Rescue Sub-Group (ATM/AIM/SAR SG/14)
(Dakar, Senegal, 11 to 14 May 2015)**

Agenda Item 3: Status of implementation of the Sub-Group work programme and related Task Forces/Working Groups as assigned by APIRG related to ATM

3.1: Air Traffic Management

GLOBAL OPERATIONAL DATA LINK DOCUMENT (GOLD)

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) as an official document to be used by the relevant stakeholders within the AFI Region

Action by the meeting is at **paragraph 3**.

REFERENCES

– APIRG/18 Report

This Working Paper is related to Strategic Objectives: **A**

CONCLUSION 18/21: ADOPTION OF THE GLOBAL OPERATIONAL DATA LINK DOCUMENT (GOLD)

That, in order to ensure regional and global harmonization of data link operations; AFI States adopt the Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) in replacement of the previous FANS 1/A Operations Manual.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 APIRG at its 18th meeting in Kampala, Uganda, was informed that the Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) was finalized and adopted by APANPIRG, NAT SPG and SAT groups, and therefore agreed to adopt it for the AFI Region to replace the current FANS 1/A Manual (FOM) initially endorsed by APIRG/16 in 2007.
- 1.2 APIRG then formulated the following conclusion:

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) is the result of the progressive evolution of the ICAO Asia-Pacific (APAC) Initial Future Air Navigation System (FANS 1/A) Operations Manual, the North Atlantic (NAT) Guidance Material for ATS Data Link Services in North Atlantic Airspace and the Eurocontrol LINK2000 + Guidance Material for the aeronautical telecommunication network baseline.
- 2.2 Each of these founding documents provided guidance on a regional basis. However, in recognition of the need to provide globally harmonized guidance on data link operations, the GOLD, First Edition, merging initially the APAC and NAT guidance material, was adopted by the APAC and NAT Regions in 2010. The Second Edition of the GOLD enabled integration of the LINK2000+ guidance material.
- 2.3 The GOLD addresses data link service provision, operator readiness, controller and flight crew procedures, performance-based specifications and post-implementation monitoring and analysis. The GOLD provides guidance and information concerning data link operations and is intended to facilitate the uniform application of Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annex 2 — *Rules of the Air*, Annex 10 — *Aeronautical Telecommunications* and Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*, the provisions in the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) and, when necessary, the *Regional Supplementary Procedures* (Doc 7030).
- 2.4 GOLD is intended to improve safety and maximize operational benefits by promoting seamless and interoperable data link operations throughout the world. This edition applies to the FANS 1/A and ATN B1 data link operations using automatic dependent surveillance — contract (ADS-C), controller-pilot data link communications (CPDLC) and the flight management computer waypoint position reporting (FMC WPR). Additional guidance is provided on the use of automatic dependent surveillance – broadcast (ADS-B) in-trail procedures (ITP). It also addresses the performance of the data link applications taking into consideration the transmission media used by those applications.
- 2.5 Regulators, Airspace Planners, Aircraft Operators, dispatchers, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), etc. should be familiar with relevant aspects of GOLD.

- 2.6 The guidance will also support the development of agreements and/or contractual arrangements between ANSPs and aircraft operators and their respective communication service providers, the development of operational procedures; and operational monitoring, analysis, and exchange of operational data among regions, States, and communication service providers.
- 2.7 GOLD is approved and maintained by the respective participating PIRGs and has a status of an ICAO regional guidance material. It contains material that may eventually become Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) or PANS provisions when it has reached the maturity and stability necessary for adoption or approval. It also comprises material prepared as an amplification of the basic principles in the corresponding SARPs.
- 2.8 GOLD is maintained as a regional document in coordination with all ICAO planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs) providing data link services within their region. Each participating PIRG establishes a mechanism for submitting and administering change proposals. Change proposals can be submitted by any stakeholder participating in data link operations.
- 2.9 The stakeholder should submit a Change Proposal to their ICAO regional office. The ICAO regional office will coordinate the change proposal within its own region, other regions, and ICAO HQ, to determine if the change proposal is acceptable. Once the ICAO regional office has completed coordination and the participating PIRGs accept the change proposal, the change is concluded by each of the PIRGs.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information this working paper;
- b) To bring the contents of GOLD to the attention of all the relevant stakeholders, especially, Civil Aviation regulators.
- c) Make every efforts to create awareness to all relevant stakeholders about the contents of GOLD
