



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND
METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (CNS/MET SG/16) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 27 July 2012

Agenda Item 8: World Area Forecast System (WAFS)

2) current status of WAFS implementation

SUMMARY OF WAFSOPSG/6 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the WAFSOPSG/6 meeting, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 21 to 25 March 2011

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives:

A: Safety - *Enhance global civil aviation safety*

C: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport - *Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment*

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-9 Situational awareness

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

1. Introduction

1.1 The sixth meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/6) was held in the Western and Central African (WACAF) Regional Office, Dakar, from 21 to 25 March 2011. The meeting was attended by twenty one experts from ten States and three international organizations (the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)).

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23/07/12

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting is reminded that under the terms of reference (TOR) the WAFSOPSG should, inter alia, provide advice and guidance concerning the operation of, and develop proposals for the development of, the WAFS in order to ensure that it continues to meet evolving global and regional operational requirements. This includes liaising with the MET advisory groups to the PIRGs regarding States' capability to receive/decode/process WAFS output products in the GRIB and BUFR code forms, and any other binary codes, as well as the global distribution of WAFS data and products.

2.2 Highlights from WAFSOPSG/6 include amendment to the WAFS-related regional procedures in the ANP/FASID and the development of criteria for the access to the Internet based services (SADIS FTP/WIFS) for the Asia and Pacific (APAC) Region. This is further discussed in WP/20 to the CNS/MET SG/16 meeting.

2.3 The group agreed to update or develop the guidance relating to: the intended use of gridded WAFS forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence in flight documentation; the handling of WAFS SIGWX correction messages; and the interpretation of the new gridded WAFS forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence.

2.4 Proposals would also be developed by WAFSOPSG for inclusion in Amendment 76 to Annex 3 relating to WAFS issues, including, inter alia, the latitude and longitude coordinates for the corners of WAFS forecasts in chart form and the removal of the trial forecast label from the WAFS gridded data sets for CB clouds, icing and turbulence.

2.5 Other issues discussed that WAFSOPSG will action or report back to include: the implementation of enhanced WAFS performance indicators; the re-transmission protocols/policies for WAFS SIGWX and GRIB2 datasets; the prioritization of GRIB2 data over GRIB1 WAFS data; the proposed re-introduction of surface fronts as an element of WAFS SIGWX forecasts in Annex 3; the training requirements, users' requirements, development and use of the new gridded WAFS forecasts including CB cloud, icing and turbulence; and the integration of meteorological information within the Global ATM operational concept.

2.6 The executive summary, full report and follow-up table from the WAFSOPSG/6 meeting, as well as other associated WAFSOPSG documentation, including the TOR, are available at the WAFSOPSG website: <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/WAFSOPSG/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. Action by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.
