



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Fifth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group Projects Coordination Committee (APCC/5) (Virtual meeting, 03 November 2020)

Agenda Item 3: Performance Framework for Regional Air Navigation Planning and Implementation

Outcomes of the third meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (IIM/SG/3)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the third meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (APIRG IIM SG/3) held virtually from 12 to 14 October 2020 for consideration by APCC5. The Sub-Group extended until its next meeting, the chairmanship of Mr. Kinafo Silué, Head of the Department of Airport and Aeronautical Infrastructures SODEXAM, Côte d'Ivoire and Mrs. Esther Gaborekwe Khambule, South African Weather Service as Vice Chairperson.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Sub-Group reviewed the status of implementation of IIM/SG/2 Conclusions/Decisions as well as the APIRG/22 Conclusions/Decisions applicable to the IIM/SG, to further facilitate and support their effective implementation.

The meeting also reviewed the status of implementation of the IIM Projects adopted by APIRG, discussed the progress made in relation to the minimum reporting requirements of the AFI Air Navigation Deficiencies and lastly reviewed its Terms of Reference (TOR).

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3:

REFERENCE(S):

- Doc 7300, *Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944*
- Doc 9750, *Global Air Navigation Plan*
- Doc 7474, *Air Navigation Plan – Africa-Indian Ocean Region*
- Report on the Second meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub Group (APIRG IIM SG/2)

Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): **A** – *Safety*, **B** – *Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency*, **D** – *Economic Development of Air Transport*, and **E** – *Environmental Protection*.

Related ASBU KPIs & B0 Modules: All applicable to AIM, CNS and MET

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Third meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG/3) was held virtually from 12 to 14 October 2020 and was attended by two hundred and fifteen (215) participants comprising representatives of thirty-one (31) States, five (5) Air Navigation Service Providers

(ASECNA, ATNS, GCAA, KCAA, SODEXAM) and two (2) international airlines association (AFRAA & IATA). Discussions were conducted in English and French languages with simultaneous interpretation.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting adopted and discussed eight (08) agenda items as reflected in the Report of the meeting as presented in **Appendix A** to this Working Paper.

2.2 The meeting was presented with Conclusions and Decisions of the APIRG/22 meeting related or linked to the scope of the Sub-group. Also discussed were the IIM/SG projects and the status of implementation of the Projects, is presented in Appendix B to this working paper. The meeting expressed concern on the low pace of participation of Project Team Members to the activities of the project and noted the lack of response to Project Team Coordinator requests for project coordination. In response to this anomaly, the meeting urged the Secretariat to circulate the list of IIM Projects Teams to States/Organizations and to encourage States to confirm the list of their nominees and assess their expertise, availability, commitment and participation of their experts nominated to be Project Team Members. The meeting also encouraged States to notify the Secretariat in any case of unavailability of appointed experts.

2.3 The meeting noted that the survey questionnaires developed by some Project Teams were yet to be forwarded to States for completion and invited the Secretariat to disseminate the subject questionnaires. States were invited to respond to the questionnaires in a timely manner and to take the necessary measures for the effective and active attendance of their experts in the APIRG IIM Projects activities.

2.4 The meeting reviewed, commented and adopted the draft Conclusions/Decisions of the IIM/SG/3 meeting as presented in Appendix E to this working paper. Of these 22 draft Conclusions and Decisions, the Secretariat agreed to filter and only present to the APCC the Conclusions and Decisions that require the APCC/APIRG's attention. These are discussed in the subsequent sections of this working paper. The complete list of the draft Conclusions and Decisions is contained in Appendix E.

Review of the APIRG Conclusions/Decisions applicable to the IIM/SG

2.5 Furthermore, it was reported that APIRG/22 meeting noted the lack of coordination by some IIM projects including AIM Project 3 with its Project Team to be coordinated by Nigeria. The APIRG meeting urged concerned Administrations to confirm to the APCC with copy to the Secretariat their commitment to lead the project. The Secretariat reported to have issued State Letter T 17/6.11 (C)-0726 dated 05 December 2019 to concerned Administrations with effective actions taken by Senegal and Uganda. Nigeria responded a few weeks prior to the IIMSG3 meeting and the Nigerian delegation to the IIM/SG meeting confirmed their willingness to lead the project and to provide nominees to the Secretariat as requested. The Sub-Group therefore agreed on the following Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 3/5: Operationalization of the APIRG IIM SG COM Project 2 and AIM Project 3

That:

In order to operationalize the APIRG IIM SG COM Project 2-Implementation of Ground/Ground communication (AFTN, AMHS) and AIM Project 3-Implementation of the provision of electronic terrain and obstacle data (e-TOD) in the AFI Region, Nigeria, not later than 30 October 2020:

and emphasized the importance of States' participation in the 2020 SIGMET Test. Furthermore, the requirements for the provision of space weather information services in the AFI Region were tabled. It was noted that South Africa (*through the South African National Space Agency -SANSA*) is the designated Regional Space Weather Centre for the provision of space weather information. Following deliberations, the meeting concluded that a new IMSG MET Project be established to deal with tasks related to Space Weather and that the Secretariat and the Regional Space Weather Centre take the appropriate steps to assist States with implementing these requirements. The Sub-Group formulated the following Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 3/20: Establishment of a Regional Space Weather Project

That:

- a) **An APIRG IIM MET Project 3-Space Weather Project is established within the IIM SG to guide the implementation of the Annex 3 provision relating to Space Weather requirements within the AFI Region;**
- b) **South Africa, hosting the AFI Regional Space Weather Center through the South African National Space Agency (SANSA), coordinate the APIRG IIM MET Project 3; and**
- c) **ICAO, after reception of the Project initial document by 31 January 2021, call for nominations of the project team members from interested AFI States/Organizations.**

2.9 Furthermore, the meeting agreed on a series of measures pertaining to the development of Volcanic Ash Contingency Plans and conduct of Volcanic Ash exercises in the AFI Region.

AIM activities

2.10 In discussing AIM activities, the meeting was provided with the reports on the progress made by the IMSG AIM Projects. The meeting was provided with the reports on the progress made by the AIM Project 1 (Kenya)- *Assessment and development of QMS applied to AIM in AFI States* and AIM Project 2 (ASECNA on behalf of Benin)- *Implementation of Aeronautical Information Exchange Systems (AIXM) (AFI)*. There was no report on AIM Project 3 (Nigeria) - *Implementation of the provision of electronic terrain and obstacle data (e-TOD)*.

2.11 The meeting applauded the achievements of the AIM Projects 1 and 2 and sanctioned the initiation AIM Project 1 project document developed as contained in Appendix D for submission and approval by the APCC. The meeting therefore formulated the following Conclusion:

Draft Decision 3/10: AIM Project 1 activities

That:

In the framework of the conduct of the project, the proposed AIM Project 1 activities with its associated project deliverables for 2021-2023 as contained in Appendix F is adopted for submission to the approval of the APCC.

2.12 Regarding the implementation of the Go-Team activities in the AFI Region, the meeting requested the Secretariat to provide guidance on the matter and to distribute the updated questionnaire to States by the end of the first quarter of year 2021. States were encouraged to nominate AIM focal point(s) to the PTC and to expressing their willingness to participate in the Regional AIM QMS Go-Teams. The meeting therefore formulated the following Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 3/11: Coordination and guidance on the implementation of AIM Go-Team activities in AFI States

That:

For the successful implementation of the activities of the “AIM Go-Team for the AFI Region”;

- a) The Secretariat provides the project with guidance on the implementation of the Go-Team activities in the AFI States and distributes the updated questionnaire for States to respond not later than 31 March 2021;**
- b) States, in consideration of the slow progress made in the Region’s effective implementation of QMS in AIM undertake the necessary action not later than 14 January 2021 to expedite this activity through:**
 - i. Nominating AIM focal point(s) to the PTC and copy to the IIM Secretariat; and**
 - ii. Expressing their willingness to participate in the Regional AIM QMS Go-Teams by providing subject matter experts.**

CNS activities

2.13 Under the CNS activities, the meeting was provided with the report on the progress made by the COM Project 1 (Mali)- : *Implementation of Ground/Ground Communication (ATS/DS, AIDC, VoIP)*; COM Project 3 (South Africa)- *Implementation of Air/Ground communication (HF/VHF voice data, CPDLC)*; COM PROJECT 4 (ASECNA on behalf of Benin)-*Integrated Aeronautical Telecommunication Infrastructure*; COM 5 Project (Cote d’Ivoire) *Assessment of AFI navigation services Cyber resilience*; Navigation Project (Cameroon); Surveillance project (*Ghana*); and *Frequency Management Project (Uganda)*. There was no report on COM PROJECT.2 (Nigeria): *Implementation of Ground/Ground communication (AFTN, AMHS)*.

2.14 In addition, the meeting embraced the outcome of the 10th ICAO Frequency Spectrum Management Panel Working Group (FSMP WG/10) meeting held virtually from 17- 26 August 2020. The FSMP WG/10 discussed the draft ICAO position for the International Telecommunication Union World Radio Communication Conference 2023 (ITU WRC-23). It was noted that although the final position is yet to be agreed upon, the draft ICAO position provides a good building block for States to follow up with their respective frequency regulators. The meeting was also presented with the key WRC-23 agenda items of interest to aviation that States could consider for protecting the aeronautical spectrum from any form of interference. The meeting therefore agreed on the following Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 3/15: Preparation of ITU WRC-23**That:****In order to promote ICAO Position and ensure the proper protection of aeronautical spectrum, States/Organizations should:**

- a) when provided with the ICAO Position for ITU-WRC-23 Agenda Items on aeronautical spectrum requirements, start as soon as possible, the work for the preparation of WRC-23 and,**
- b) based on the lessons learnt from the last WRCs, reinforce their collaboration with the sub Regional Association of National Regulators of Telecommunication and work closely with ATU.**

2.15 The meeting noted the progress information from all the PTCs and took note of the common challenges, which included lack of effective participation, unavailability of experts and the lack of response to questionnaires by some States. However, in light of the unprecedented circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it was noted that some of the IMSG meetings had been successfully held remotely using videoconferencing tools. The meeting therefore agreed on the following Conclusion:

Draft Decision 3/12: Development of IIM Projects Master Plan**That:****In order to facilitate IIM Projects planning implementation and monitoring:****A Project Team Coordinator Core Team (South Africa, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Uganda) is established with the assistance of the Secretariat under the supervision of Chair and Vice Chair to develop the IIM Projects Master Plan by 31 July 2021; track all the IIM Projects activities and provide quarterly reports.****AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database (AANDD)**

2.16 Furthermore, the meeting discussed issues related to the most recent developments within the Secretariat concerning the AFI Air Navigation Deficiency Database (AANDD) and the update of air navigation deficiencies in the areas of **AIM, CNS, MET**. The Secretariat presented to the meeting, the minimum reporting requirements in the AIM, CNS and MET and also indicated that a workshop will be conducted to shed light on these minimum reporting requirements and the operation of the AANDD web interface. It was also noted with apprehension, that some States had not appointed focal points for the AANDD. The meeting therefore formulated the following Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 3/18: Reporting on Air Navigation Deficiencies and operationalization of the AANDD**That:**

In order to expedite the operationalization of the AFI Air Navigation Deficiencies Database (AANDD):

- a) States that have not yet appointed their focal points, are encouraged to do so by 30 October 2020;**
- b) ICAO endeavors to organize the workshop on Reporting on Air Navigation Deficiencies preferably before 31 December 2020.**

General IIM Matters

2.17 With regard to General IIM Matters, the meeting considered APIRG/22 Agenda Item 2 (Coordination between APIRG and RASG-AFI) -and took note of the need to increase the liaison between the two APIRG AAO and IIM Sub Groups. In this regard, the Project Team Coordinators (PTCs) were encouraged to regularly review their project documents, with the aim to identify and act upon IIM project linkage with AAO Projects and circulate a linkage matrix amongst Project Teams in order to prevent duplication and ensure harmonization of the implementation of ASBU modules and threads.

2.18 The meeting recognized the various issues related to the mechanisms and opportunities of funding IIM Projects. A summary of the contribution of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to APIRG/22 through financing options was presented to the meeting for information.

2.19 In other Air Navigation issues, the meeting noted IATA’s initiative on the African Indian Ocean (AFI) Aeronautical Information Management Action Group (AIM AG) and encouraged the group to support the AIM Projects under the IIM SG through sharing relevant AIM AG outcomes, and recommendations in order to harmonize ongoing initiatives and activities in the area of AIM.

2.20 The meeting welcomed the information from ASECNA on Regional Projects on AFI Aeronautical CNS Infrastructure, Systems and Spectrum and encouraged States/Organizations to expedite the implementation of the aeronautical CNS services to achieve a seamless AFI Airspace and to strengthen cooperation for improvement of the aeronautical CNS infrastructure and systems. ASECNA further informed the meeting of the development status of the ASECNA “SBAS for Africa & Indian Ocean” project. The meeting noted the achievements made by ASECNA in this area and recalled the framework of the AFI GNSS Strategy in particular the awaited Cost Benefit analysis coordinated by AFCAC.

2.21 The Sub Group reviewed, updated and adjusted the Terms of Reference, composition, working methods and work programme of the APIRG IIM Sub-Group and revised its work schedule as indicated in Appendix F.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING:

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information presented in this working paper, highlighting the work achieved by the third meeting of the APIRG IIM/SG;
- b) Provide guidance as required for the finalization of APIRG/23 WP on the Report of IIM/SG/3;
- c) Review the draft AFI IWXXM Implementation Guideline document as presented in Appendix C and have it submitted to APIRG/23 for adoption, with availability to States not later than 15 January 2021; and
- d) Review and approve the AIM Project 1 project document developed as contained in Appendix D.

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