

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
**Fourth Meeting of the APIRG Airspace and Aerodrome Operations Sub-Group
(AAO SG/4), Virtual Meeting, 16 to 18 August 2021**

- Agenda Item 3: Planning and Implementation**
- 3.3 Other Air Navigation Initiatives**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERREGIONAL ATM COORDINATION MEETING
REPORT**

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
The paper presents the outcome of the Interregional ATM Coordination Meeting (ATM CM) that was conducted virtually on 28 June to 2 July 2021.
Action required from the meeting is per Paragraph 3
REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Interregional ATM CM 2021 • APIRG/23 report
APPENDICES ATM CM 2021 Action Plan
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): A: Aviation Safety – Enhance Global Civil Aviation Safety, B: Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, C: Security and Facilitation, D: Economic Development, E: Environmental Protection

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ICAO encourages coordination between air traffic service providers and others aviation service providers as the first and most effective step to ensure smooth and safe operations. Annex 11 and PANS ATM, Doc 4444 highlights importance of ATM coordination with other aviation entities.

1.2 Annex 11, 2.19.2 in relating to ensuring safe operations of aircraft outlines the objective of coordination as *‘to achieve the best arrangements which will avoid hazards to civil aircraft and minimize interference with the normal operations of such aircraft’*.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) Inter-Regional Air Traffic Management (ATM) Coordination Meeting (CM) was organized by the ICAO ESAF and WACAF regional offices and supported, by the ICAO APAC and MID offices. The meeting was held virtually on 28 June to 2 July 2021.

2.2 The AFI ATM CM was aimed at providing a forum for the AFI states and other adjacent

Flight Information Regions (FIRs) to review the various aspects of Air Traffic Management (ATM) Coordination; it provided opportunity to support the States/FIRs and/or ANSPs in reviewing and updating the Letters of Procedures/Agreements between ATM units.

2.3 The meeting, which was attended by participants from four ICAO regions, APAC, ESAF, MID and WACAF noted the number of coordination failures that affects ATM and developed an action plan, (**Appendix 1** to the WP) that would improve the level of coordination not only within the regions but also interregional.

2.4 The ATM CM noted the numerous outstanding actions pending from previous coordination meetings and urged that States concerned expedite the implementation.

2.5 The ATM CM noted the report from Mauritius on the ongoing airspace upgrade with the implementation of free route airspace within the Mauritius Flight Information Region (FIR). The CM provided a forum for Mauritius to complete the coordination with neighbouring FIRs on the planned changes.

2.6 The ATM CM also noted that there was still a high level of coordination failures resulting in Large Height Deviations (LHD) in the intersection region between AFI and MID regions (the Horn of Africa). In order to eliminate this unsafe situation, the meeting noted the importance of participation in coordination forums by all concerned states.

2.7 In order to foster the implementation of the Performance Based Communication and Surveillance (PBCS) within the AFI airspace, the meeting adopted the project team methodology and recommended for the establishment of an AFI PBCS Project Management Team (PBCS PMT). AFI States were encouraged to nominate members to the PMT.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information contained in the working paper, review, and recommend appropriate timelines for the implementation of the actions contained in the Action Plan (**Appendix 1**).
- b) Urge the AFI States and organisations to implement the recommendations contained in the Action plan by the timelines indicated.
- c) Encourage ICAO to utilise any possible means to engage the AFI states in the Horn of Africa to address the LHD.
- d) To endorse the establishment of a PBCS PMT and urge the AFI states to nominate members to the team.
