



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

**Twenty-Ninth Eastern Caribbean Working Group Meeting (29 E/CAR WG)**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 9 to 13 May 2005

29 E/CAR WG – WP/20

02/05/05

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## **Agenda Item 3**

### **Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments**

#### **3.6 Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)**

#### **NEED FOR AN AFTN BACK UP**

(Presented by France)

#### **SUMMARY**

This WP presents the need to have a back up in order to ensure the transmission of the AFTN messages in case of outage on the network.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The failure of the AFTN link between PIARCO and Atlanta stressed the need for an alternate AFTN plan for the E/CAR region.

### **2. Discussion**

2.1 Starting in January 2005, a heavy failure made the link between PIARCO and ATLANTA AFTN center unserviceable. The link was reported out of service during approximately 43 days by Guadeloupe and Martinique. The failure induced the total lack of AFTN information from and to Piarco FIR in the whole E/CAR region during this long period.

2.2 The operational impact of this failure was very important and flights safety was challenged since there regularity was significantly reduced. In order to avoid the impact of a new occurrence of this type of failure, once again incompatible with operational constraints, an AFTN alternative plan should be built under ICAO authority. This plan should prevent from the impact of external AFTN failures (for example, the failure between PIARO and ATLANTA) but also of regional local problems such as some failures of the ECAR digital network.

### **2. Proposed action**

2.1 The meeting is invited to:

- adopt the proposition of creation of an alternative AFTN plan to prevent the absence of AFTN information in E/CAR ATS units;
- consider this need under an internal vision (inside Piarco FIR) and a more general point of view [the link(s?) between Piarco and the rest of the world]; and
- propose an action plan to design and to implement this back up solution.

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