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Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 22-26 May 2017

Agenda Item 3 Implementation on Air Navigation Matters
3.4 AGA and MET progress and other regional implementation groups
3.4.2 MET progress

**NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE GREPECAS AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY PROGRAMME
IN THE CAR REGION**

(Presented by Cuba)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aeronautical Meteorology is a priority for both the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In spite of this, we appreciate that coordination of implementation activities between Civil Aviation Authorities and national meteorological services at the national level, as well as between regional offices of ICAO and WMO at the regional level, is not yet achieved in our Region the desired effectiveness.

Year after year we observed a weakening of the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS) Aeronautical Meteorology Program in the CAR Region, being necessary to give an impetus to it, as well as to strengthen the implementation of the Aeronautical Meteorology goals in our Region in the Regional Plan of Implementation of the Navigation Based In Performance (RPBANIP), in accordance with Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3 - . Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation.

Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Environmental Protection
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Meetings of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS)• Reports of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Meetings of the GREPECAS Program and Project Review Committee (PPRC)• AN 10/1-17/41 Proposals for the amendment of Annex 3 and consequential amendments to Annex 15, PANS-ABC and PANS-ATM, 7 April 2017

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication Ref: NACC65523 dated 23 March 2017 - Status of implementation of the targets of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP) and the Declaration of Port of Spain in December 2016.
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1. Introduction

1.1 Aeronautical Meteorology is a priority for both the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In spite of this, we appreciate that coordination of implementation activities between Civil Aviation Authorities and national meteorological services at the national level, as well as between regional offices of ICAO and WMO at the regional level, is not yet achieved in our Region the desired effectiveness, giving the impression as if WMO were waiting for ICAO to take the banner of implementation of MET targets and vice versa. As a result, there is worrying inactivity.

1.2 For the Civil Aviation Authorities, although Aeronautical Meteorology is of the utmost importance for the proper conduct of Air Navigation, in most Contracting States of ICAO, the Meteorological Authority is based on National Meteorological Services, which influences At national level in the non-participation of MET specialists in delegations to ICAO activities and at the regional level are the first events to leave the NACC Office's Calendar of Events in the face of the need to rationalize or prioritize other activities.

1.3 Year after year we observed a weakening of the GREPECAS Aeronautical Meteorology Program in the CAR Region, and it is necessary to give it a boost, as well as to strengthen the implementation of the Aeronautical Meteorology goals RPBANIP, in accordance with Proposal for Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3.

2. Discussion

2.1 In reading the GREPECAS and CRPP reports, we can appreciate that for different reasons, the GREPECAS Aeronautical Meteorology Program in the CAR Region is moving back and in the SAM Region it is not advancing in line with the requirements that WMO and ICAO needs. We appreciate that the division of projects by subregions has not contributed to a better performance of the Program.

2.2 At the initiative of members of the CAR and SAM Regions of the Meteorological Panel of Meteorology (METP) of ICAO and with the support of regional aeronautical meteorology officials, teleconferences were developed in December 2016 to inform the proposed amendments to ICAO Annex 3 discussed in the METP and to express our concern about the work modality adopted by GREPECAS.

2.3 During the work of the METP we were able to appreciate that the only Regional Planning and Implementation Group (PIRG) that abandoned the format of working subgroups was GREPECAS, for that of programs and projects. In one of the teleconferences held, MET experts from different countries of the SAM Region expressed the need to respect the format of programs and projects, to resume the annual face-to-face meetings held annually (Meeting of the Subgroup on Aeronautical Meteorology of GREPECAS (AERMETSG))

2.4 On 7 April 2017, ICAO State Letter AN10/1-17/41 distributed the proposal for Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3 to the States for comments. It proposes the introduction of new services and specifies the entry into force as standards of elements that are now recommended methods. Among the proposals are: introduction of the Space Weather Information Service, improvements in the provision of SIGMET information by meteorological watch offices (MWOS), information on the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, SIGMET and AIRMET information, introduction of the IWXXM and qualifications, competencies, professional training and instruction of Aeronautical Meteorology personnel.

2.5 In line with the proposal of Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3, it is necessary to take these into account in the next update to the RPBANIP Regional Performance Objective and to the introduction of new MET Air Navigation targets .

2.6 Based on the Proposal for Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3, CAR / SAM projects should be developed to achieve their effective implementation. To achieve this goal, it is essential to guarantee the development of the GREPECAS Meeting MET Project September 2017 .

2.7 Failure to make the MET Project Meeting in a timely manner in March brings us without proposals to GREPECAS / 18. However, we suggest the feasibility of including at least the 4 new following CAR / SAM projects, for which Cuba would support the required formulation once the meeting foreseen for September is concluded.

The initiatives to be included are the following:

- Space Meteorology Implementation
- IWXXM Implementation
- Harmonization of SIGMETs between the Meteorological Surveillance Offices of the FIRs.
- Implementation of qualifications, competences, professional training and instruction of Aeronautical Meteorology personnel.

3. Suggested actions

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) promote the update of the RPBANIP MET Regional Performance Objective and introduce new MET Air Navigation targets, taking as a reference the amendments to ICAO Annex 3;
- b) convene the member States to participate and assist to the seminar on implementation of the IWXXM scheduled for August 2017 and to the MET Project meeting rescheduled for September 2017
- c) request to the GREPECAS/18:
 - i. to consider the approval of the proposed initiatives of the CAR/SAM projects; and
 - ii. to resume the face-to-face meetings of the GREPECAS MET Subgroup, respecting the format of the programmes and projects.