FINAL SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS 1st Meeting of the NAM CAR Regional Airspace Optimization Team Online, 7 October 2021

List of Participants

20 participants from the NAM/CAR Region attended the event, representing 10 States and 3 International Organizations, including members designated for this Team as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Refer to **Attachment A**.

Objectives:

The objectives of this initial meeting were to introduce the concept of large scale regional airspace optimization to the States and Flight Information Regions (FIRs).

Agenda:

Refer to Attachment B.

Opening

Mr. Melvin Cintron, Regional Director, ICAO NACC Regional Office, welcomed participants and emphasized the goal of Optimizing the region's airspace and the savings that could be realized economically and environmentally.

Documentation

The Meeting related documentation is available at the following link:

https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2021-cartm1.aspx

Agenda Item 1: Introduction of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

1.1 Each SME introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their aviation background/experience.

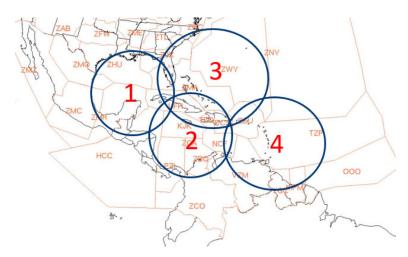
Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Plan/Concept

- 2.1 ICAO presented the framework of the plan under P/01. The highlights were the following objectives:
 - 1. Optimize NAM/CAR Airspace to meet growing demand
 - 2. Operational Improvements
 - 3. Gain Efficiency
 - 4. Lower Carbon Footprint
 - 5. Interoperable/ harmonized with adjacent Regions
 - 6. Long Term Solution
 - 7. Implementation time: 2-3 years

- 2.2 Another aspect of the plan presented is a two-pronged approach, with the first being targeting routes and finding areas that can be optimized. The second is to look at lower airspace.
- 2.3 Under P/02, IATA briefed the Meeting on the interests of the aviation customers that align with the project CANSO Air Traffic Flow Management Data Exchange Network for the Americas (CADENA), briefed on work that it had begun mirroring the projects goals under P/03. All presenters showed potential savings not only financially but environmentally as well.

Agenda Item 3: Determination of Starting Group

3.1 In line with WP/02, ICAO recommended that group 2 be the starting point for the low altitude optimization and the delegates accepted the proposal.



Agenda Item 4: Other business

4.1 Under WP/01, the Secretariat proposed to rename the Team "Regional Airspace Optimization for the NAM CAR Regions Team", which was accepted by the group. The goal of the project is to look at the airspace, taking into account current projects, and look for ways to optimize and harmonize it, seeking any operational improvements where efficiency, lower carbon footprints, and harmonization with adjacent regions can be gained. This plan is expected to be able to evolve encompassing future technological gains: it is a 2-3 years project. ICAO urged for Subject Matter Experts (SME) from the States to be involved on this team.

Conclusions

- a) The Meeting was successful in that the issue of optimization on a large scale is necessary in the region was presented and accepted.
- b) The framework of the plan for the Regional Airspace Optimization for the NAM CAR Regions was well accepted, together with the work scheme.

- c) IATA and CADENA have already begun work on individual select routes that are requested on an ad hoc basis. These routes are then coordinated with the States/FIR for approval.
- d) The Secretariat is engaging to facilitate optimizing routes on a permanent basis increasing efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions.
- e) The Secretariat will facilitate coordination between IATA, CADENA and the member States/Territories.

Next Steps

- a) The 14 October meeting was postponed and will be held now on **18 November 2021**. During this meeting, IATA will offer routes to be addressed by the group for consideration.
- b) The Team will meet on a monthly basis to address routes within the geographical zones considered areas in low altitude for optimization.
- c) ICAO will continue approaching the different States on the promotion and active participation for the implementation of the Plan.
