

SEVENTH MEETING

WORLD AREA FORECAST SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP (Lima, Peru, 17 to 21 September 2012)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(Note.— The full report is available at www.icao.int/anb/wafsopsg.)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The seventh meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/7) was held in the South American (SAM) Regional Office, Lima, from 17 to 21 September 2012. The meeting was attended by twenty-three experts from thirteen States and three international organizations (the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)).

1.2 The Chairman, Mr. Dorinel Visoiu, presided over the meeting throughout its duration.

2. FOLLOW-UP OF WAFSOPSG/6 CONCLUSIONS

2.1 With regard to the follow-up of WAFSOPSG/6 conclusions, the group noted that action had been completed on all the issues (Decision 7/1).

3. REVIEW OF ICAO PROVISIONS RELATED TO WAFS

3.1 Under this agenda item, the group reviewed the regional procedures related to the world area forecast system (WAFS) and proposed amendments regarding, inter alia, the elimination of references to the international satellite communications system (ISCS) in light of the withdrawal of the ISCS satellite broadcast by world area forecast centre (WAFS) Washington on 1 July 2012 (Conclusion 7/2).

3.2 With regard to ICAO provisions related to the WAFS, the group tasked the Secretary to prepare a proposal for amendment of Annex 3, Chapter 11, 11.1.9, Note 1 to account for the cessation of the ISCS satellite broadcast on 1 July 2012 for review by WAFSOPSG/8 (Conclusion 7/3).

4. OPERATION OF THE WAFS

4.1 The group reviewed the WAFS management report which had been prepared by the WAFS Provider States and placed on the WAFSOPSG website. The group noted its content and expressed satisfaction with the scope of information provided.

4.2 The group noted the information provided by WAFS Provider States regarding the feasibility of the provision of enhanced WAFS performance indicators. In this regard, the group agreed to finalize targets and to implement enhanced WAFS performance indicators by 1 November 2012, and to have the WAFS Provider States include related information in the WAFS management reports (Conclusion 7/4).

4.3 The group reviewed a report prepared by an ad-hoc working group concerning re-transmission protocols/policies for WAFS SIGWX and GRIB2 datasets. In view of the reasonable needs and expectations of users, together with the principles of the quality management system and the current capabilities of the WAFS, the group reviewed a summary of a policy proposal and agreed on the need to establish re-transmission policies for WAFS SIGWX and GRIB2 datasets (Conclusion 7/5).

4.4 The group noted the cessation by WAFC Washington of the ISCS satellite broadcast on 1 July 2012 and its replacement by the WAFS Internet-based services (WIFS), and that the satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS) Provider State and WAFC London had established the Secure SADIS FTP service. To facilitate users' access, the group tasked the WAFC Provider States to work on the synchronization of the file structures of the WIFS and the Secure SADIS FTP (Conclusion 7/6).

4.5 With regard to the availability times of GRIB1 upper-air data on the WAFS Internet-based services (Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS), the group agreed that the GRIB1 upper-air data should be made available on the Internet-based services once it has completed its production process, but no earlier than GRIB2 upper-air data, and that users should be notified of the availability times and/or future updates to the availability times via the WAFS Change Implementation Notice Board (Conclusion 7/7).

4.6 To benefit users, the group invited the WAFC Provider States to issue administrative messages to inform users of changes to WAFS services and updates of WAFS documentation (Conclusion 7/8).

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAFS

5.1 The group agreed that all the formalities regarding the cessation of WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB1 code form had been fulfilled. Therefore, the group endorsed their cessation at 0000 UTC on 14 November 2013 (Decision 7/9 refers) and invited WAFC Provider States to cease their preparation and issuance (Conclusion 7/10 refers). In addition, the group agreed to inform user States of the cessation and to encourage user States concerned to migrate to the use of WAFS forecasts in WMO GRIB2 code form (Conclusion 7/11).

5.2 Regarding the visualization of WAFS upper-air gridded forecasts, the group reviewed an outline prepared by the WAFC Provider States of how WAFS SIGWX forecasts and WAFS gridded CB clouds, icing and turbulence forecasts were intended to be used given that both were expected to have operational status by November 2013. The group agreed to include the principles of the referred outline as guidance material in the *Manual on Aeronautical Meteorological Practices* (Doc 8896) (Conclusion 7/12).

5.3 With regard to training requirements, for States and WAFS users, for the new WAFS gridded forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence, the group, in light of the consideration of examples of visualization options, agreed to proceed with the development of a training package in line with the expected timescale involved with its operational use, and tasked the Secretary to investigate the feasibility of its translation into all official languages of ICAO (Conclusion 7/13).

5.4 In view of the successful harmonization of the WAFS gridded global forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence, and the ongoing verification results, as well as the availability of updated guidance material, the group reaffirmed Conclusion 6/18 regarding the removal, as part of Amendment 76 to Annex 3, of Note 1 to Appendix 2, 1.2.2 h) regarding the experimental nature ("trial forecasts") of the gridded forecasts. Additionally, the group invited the WAFC Providers States, in collaboration with all ICAO PIRGs, IATA and WMO, to extend the verification of WAFS gridded global forecasts of CB clouds, icing and turbulence using more comprehensive datasets for the monitoring of the quality of the products and to publish the CB clouds, icing and turbulence verification results on the WAFCs websites (Conclusion 7/14).

5.5 Regarding the WAFS support required for the integration of meteorological information within the global ATM operation concept, the group invited ICAO, the WAFC Provider States and selected States and international organizations to coordinate, with the Meteorological Aeronautical Requirements and Information Exchange Project Team (MARIE-PT), in the development of a concept of

operations for the WAFS that takes into consideration functional requirements and performance metrics (Conclusion 7/15).

6. LONG-TERM PLANNING OF THE WAFS IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 The group reviewed the WAFS five-year plan to take into account recent developments and to add expected milestones up to the year 2016 (Decision 7/16).

7. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The group endorsed in its work programme the new name of Deliverable WAFSOPSG-06 as “Concept of operations for the WAFS” to reflect discussions under Agenda Item 6.4 (Decision 7/17).

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 With regard to a proposal regarding the increased availability of ADS-C reports, the group agreed that ICAO and the WAFS Provider States should ensure that all ADS-C reports relating to meteorological information be forwarded by the ANSP to the WAFSs (Conclusion 7/18).

8.2 The group agreed that issues concerning the quality management of ADS-C reports relating to meteorological information should be investigated by ICAO (Conclusion 7/19).

8.3 The group agreed to invite ICAO and WAFS Washington to review all the documentation available on the WAFSOPSG website to identify all legacy references to the ISCS and replace (or remove) such references with the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) (Conclusion 7/20).