

**60<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF  
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Sendai, Japan  
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**AGENDA ITEM 4:      AIR NAVIGATION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO REPLACE THE DEFINITION OF  
“APPROPRIATE ATS AUTHORITY” WITH “ATS PROVIDER”  
TO REFLECT SERVICE PROVIDER ROLES**

(Presented by Republic of the Philippines)

**INFORMATION PAPER**

**SUMMARY**

This paper proposes replacing the term “appropriate ATS authority” with “ATS provider” to better reflect the actual role of service-providing entities in air traffic services (ATS). This recommendation aligns with recent changes introduced through the adoption of the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET, Doc 10157), which distinguishes between the “Meteorological Authority” and the newly defined “Meteorological Service Provider.” The proposed change supports regulatory clarity, improves consistency across ICAO provisions, and better reflects the realities of modern service delivery in multi-state and privatized operational environments.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO REPLACE THE DEFINITION OF “APPROPRIATE ATS AUTHORITY” WITH “ATS PROVIDER” TO REFLECT SERVICE PROVIDER ROLES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET, Doc 10157) was approved by the Council at the fourteenth meeting of its 234th Session on 2 April 2025, with applicability date of 27 November 2025. A copy of the first edition of the PANS-MET is available as attachments to the electronic version of State letter (AN 10/25.2-25/36) dated 23 April 2025.

1.2 PANS-MET introduced an updated definition of the “Meteorological Authority” as the entity responsible for regulation and oversight of meteorological services on behalf of a Contracting State. Additionally, it introduced the term “Meteorological Service Provider,” defined as the designated entity providing meteorological services on behalf of the State. This distinction clarifies the regulatory and operational responsibilities in service provision.

1.3 Amendment 54 to Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services, adopted concurrently with PANS-MET, introduced consequential updates to reflect these changes. Notably, paragraph 2.21 of Annex 11 was revised to reference the “Meteorological Service Provider” instead of the “Meteorological Authority.”

### **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Amendment 54 to Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services, adopted by the ICAO Council concurrently with the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET, Doc 10157), introduced important updates to meteorological terminology. Specifically, it replaced the term “Meteorological Authority” with “Meteorological Service Provider”, and introduced a new definition that better reflects the operational role of entities delivering MET services. This shift acknowledges that service provision may be carried out by designated organizations rather than directly by state authorities.

2.2 While paragraph 2.21 of Annex 11 (2.21 Coordination between meteorological service provider and appropriate air traffic services authority) was updated to reflect this new terminology, aligning with PANS-MET, the term “Appropriate ATS authority” remains unchanged throughout the Annex and other relevant ICAO documents. This creates a potential inconsistency in terminology, especially in light of similar operational realities within air traffic services, where ATS is also provided by non-state entities or multi-state service providers.

2.3 To maintain consistency across ICAO provisions and accurately reflect the evolving landscape of air navigation service delivery, this paper proposes considering a revision of the term “Appropriate ATS authority” to “Air Traffic Service provider.” This change would harmonize the terminology with that of Meteorological Service Provider, provide clarity in interpretation, and better represent the current structure of service provision in both privatized and multi-state operational environments.

### **3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE**

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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