ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/26)

7 - 8 November 2023

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the regional air navigation plan

3.2. Outcome of the Sixth meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG6)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the APIRG Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-group (IIM/SG6), held in-person, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 31 July to 3 August 2023.

The Sub-Group reviewed the status of implementation of APIRG/25 Conclusions/Decisions related to the IIM/SG areas and discussed the status of implementation of regional projects adopted by APIRG and the implementation status of ASBU elements applicable to the AFI Region. The meeting also discussed the amendment and the update of the AFI eANP.

Action by the Meeting is provided **in paragraph 3**

REFERENCES

- APIRG Procedural Handbook
- Doc 7300, Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944
- The Global Air Navigation Plan
- Doc 7474, Air Navigation Plan - Africa-Indian Ocean Region
- APIRG/25 Report
- IIM/SG5 Report
- IIM/SG ToR

Strategic Objectives	***A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency, D – Economic Development of Air Transport, and E – Environmental Protection.***

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The meeting was attended by eighteen-three (83) participants from eighteen (18) ESAF and WACAF States and five (5) Organizations. Regional Officers from the ESAF and WACAF Offices served as the Secretariat of the meeting.

2 DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Issoufou Abdulaye (Niger), Chairperson and Ms. Nokuthula Phakathi (South Africa), Vice Chairperson of the Sub-group.

2.2. Ten (10) agenda items were discussed as reflected in the Report of the Meeting presented in the Appendix 1 to this Working Paper and available at https://www.icao.int/WACAF/Pages/APIRG-26.aspx

2.3. The meeting deliberated on eight (8) draft Conclusions/Decisions and this paper presents draft Conclusions/Decisions that call for the attention of the APCC and APIRG.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

2.4. In accordance with the provisions of the APIRG Procedure Handbook, the meeting proceeded with the election of the Subgroup Chair and Vice-Chair. The following decision was formulated accordingly.

Draft Decision 26/xx Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Group

That, to guide the implementation of the Sub-Group activities, Mr. Issoufou Abdoulaye from Niger and Ms. Nokuthula Phakathi from South Africa are respectively elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the IIM Sub-Group.

Review of draft Conclusions and Decisions of the IIM/SG5 Meeting and Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG/25 Meeting pertaining to the Sub-group

2.5. The meeting reviewed the APIRG/25 and RASG-AFI/8 Conclusions and Decisions pertaining to the mandate of the IIM Sub-group, noted that 38% were completed, 45% were 'in progress' and 17% are yet to be started. The meeting deliberated on the challenges presented and agreed to the important role that States play in ensuring that the activities of Conclusions and Decisions are implemented.

2.6. The updated status of implementation of APIRG/25 Conclusions and Decisions is provided at Appendix 2 to this working paper.

Formulation of the Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG Meetings

2.7. The attention of the IIM/SG6 meeting was drawn to the fact that during the last three meetings since APIRG/23, several conclusions and decisions were still outstanding. In particular, the

25th APIRG meeting noted that only 50% of the conclusions and decisions of APIRG/24 had been completed.

2.8. Analysing the matter, the meeting identified some factors as contributing to the low level of implementation of Conclusions and Decisions, including the insufficient assessment of the relevance of actions, actions not clearly specified, responsible actors not clearly identified, timeline not properly set, metrics not identified, and follow-up means not specified. To cope with these challenges, the meeting proposed through the following draft decision, a template to improve the formulation of Conclusions and Decision

Draft Decision 26/xx Formulation of Conclusions and Decisions of APIRG meetings

That, to address the factors contributing to the low level of implementation of the Conclusions and Decisions formulated by the meetings of APIRG and its Contributory Bodies, the following template is proposed for the formulation of future Conclusions and Decisions.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">Conclusion/Decision XX: Title of the Conclusion or Decision</td></tr>
<tr><td>Why:</td><td colspan="5">Why this Conclusion or Decision is needed</td></tr>
<tr><td>What:</td><td colspan="5">What action is required</td></tr>
<tr><td>Who:</td><td colspan="5">Who is responsible for the required action (e.g. ICAO, States, Organizations, etc.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>When:</td><td colspan="5">Target date</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Implementation following-up</td></tr>
<tr><td>Follow-up required</td><td>Yes ☐
No ☐</td><td>Metrics</td><td>Metric 1:
Metric 2:
….</td><td>Means to collect data on the implementation of the conclusion /decision</td><td>Mean 1:
Mean 2:
….</td></tr>
</table>

Status of implementation of applicable ASBU elements

Status of ASBU elements in CNS, AIM and MET fields

2.9. The meeting noted that data collected from States by the Regional Offices provided an overview of the status of implementation of the ASBU elements in the region. It was agreed that the ongoing finalization of Volume III of the e-ANP and its automation will enable Administration/Organizations to directly upload the status of implementation of ASBU elements in the tables designed for that purpose. States were encouraged to continue providing data on the implementation status of the ASBU elements as reflected in the Volume III of the eANP provided as Appendix 3 to this working paper.

Monitoring the implementation of the ASBU elements in the region

2.10. In response to the APIRG/25 Conclusion 25/11 related to the collection of data and reporting on ASBU implementation, the meeting was informed that the online ASBU data collection tool was being developed by the Secretariat as an add on to the current platform of the Air navigation deficiencies database (AANDD) and was under finalization. In view of the future operational use of that online ASBU data collection tool, the meeting requested States to provide the Secretariat with the baseline data on their planning and implementation of ASBU

elements and recommended the conduct of trainings for the focal points from States and Organizations. Therefore, the following draft conclusion was formulated for consideration by the APIRG meeting.

Draft Conclusion 26/xx - Monitoring the implementation of ASBU elements in the region.

That,

To provide a comprehensive and data driven analysis and visualization of the status of implementation of ASBU elements in the region,

a) States to provide the Secretariat with baseline data on the planning and implementation of ASBU elements, through their feedbacks on the draft Volume III of the eANP by 31 January 2024, for the finalization and operationalization of the online ASBU data collecting and monitoring tool; and

b) ***ICAO ESAF and WACAF Regional Offices to organize by 30 June 2024, familiarization seminars/webinars on the use of the online tool, for the Focal Points from States and Organization.***

Implementation of ASBU elements and Achievements of APIRG IIM Projects

CNS Area

2.11. Under the CNS activities, the meeting was provided with the report on the progress made by the *COM Project 1 – Implementation of Ground/Ground Communication (ATS/DS, AIDC, VoIP); COM Project 3 – Implementation of Air/Ground communication (HF/VHF voice data, CPDLC); COM Project 4 – Integrated Aeronautical Telecommunication Infrastructure; COM Project 5 – Assessment of AFI navigation services Cyber resilience; Navigation Project; Surveillance project; and Spectrum Project.*

2.12. Six (6) of the eight (8) CNS projects reported the completion of the project documentation, the project action plans, the draft of projects costing and guidance material. The two other projects are yet to develop their action plan and the projects costing.

AIM Area

2.13. The meeting was updated on the progress towards the conduct of the two new projects AIM/4 on Monitoring of Aeronautical information quality and Improvement of NOTAM and AIM/5 on Implementation of Aerodrome mapping data sets.

2.14. The meeting noted that some challenges were faced in the composition of the project's teams including the lack of expertise in the field of Flight procedure design and Aeronautical charting, which are essential for the successful implementation of Instrument flight procedure datasets and Aerodrome mapping datasets. The meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate to States and Organizations the required criteria for the nomination of Experts to both projects' teams.

MET Area

2.15. The meeting was updated on the progress made in the implementation of *MET Project 1 on the provision of global, regional, and local meteorological products/Information, MET Project 2 on the provision of meteorological information in the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format and MET Project 3 on the implementation of Annex 3 provisions relating to space weather requirements within the AFI Region*. The meeting noted the completion of the alignment of the project documentation with the provisions of the GANP, the development of the project cost estimation and the collection of data on the implementation of AMET-B0 and AMET-B1 elements from States as presented in Appendix 4 to this working paper. They also reviewed the current implementation status of the ASBU MET elements, identified gaps and then developed corrective action plans based on the results of their review. MET Project 3 conducted a regional workshop on space weather requirements, which provided tailored support to States with guidance to their MET forecasters on space weather advisories.

2.16. For the two new MET projects, *MET Project 4 on Implementation of aeronautical meteorological competency standard and MET Project 5 on Mitigation of the deficiencies related to the availability of the OPMET data in the region*, the meeting noted that these had just been taken over by new project team coordinators and project team members. MET Project 4 reported the completion of the development of project documents, project action plan and the project costing proposal. There was no report on the MET 5 project.

Reporting on Planning and implementation by States and Stakeholders

Implementation of AMET-B0 and AMET-B1 by ASECNA Member States

2.17. The IIM/SG6 was informed of the progress in the implementation of the AMET-B0 and AMET-B1 elements of the ASBU by ASECNA Member States and encouraged them to continue to support States in improving the capabilities of aeronautical meteorological services in the region.

Update of the AFI eANP

Completion of Vol III of the eANP

2.18. It was recalled at the meeting that APIRG Conclusion 25/29 requested States to review the draft eANP Volume III and to provide the Secretariat with their comments for consideration in finalizing document to be submitted to APIRG through APCC for formal approval. The meeting was informed that only three (3) States provided comments, with some proposals for significant changes in the format of the tables as well as the scope of applicable ASBU elements.

2.19. The meeting discussed the expectation that States would provide at least data in the tables included in the Volume III of the AFI eANP for each of the AOP, ATM/SAR, CNS, AIM and MET areas, in order to capture the status of implementation of the applicable ASBU elements. Therefore, the meeting urged States to confirm their progress in implementing the

applicable elements of the ASBU as requested by APIRG Conclusion 25/29 on the completion of the regional eANP.

Proposal of amendment of Vol I and Vol II of the eANP

2.20. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the fact that Volume II of the AFI eANP, approved by the APIRG in its conclusion 22/20, contains some inconsistencies in various tables, including (but not limited to) poor formatting, outdated information, etc.). In this regard, the meeting was informed of the ongoing actions undertaken by the Secretariat to assist States to solve these inconsistencies through a scheduled of a three-sessions webinar on the Regional Air Navigation Plan updating. States were encouraged to participate in this webinar and provide consistent proposal of amendments to Vol I and II of the eANP.

Other Air Navigation initiatives

CNS area

2.21. The meeting discussed the final ICAO Position for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Word Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (ITU WRC 23) was endorsed by the ICAO Air Navigation Commission in May 2023, approved by ICAO Council and disseminated to States in June 2023.

2.22. 2.22. The meeting was reported on the workshop held virtually on 19 July 2023, in preparation for the 4th preparatory meeting of the African Telecommunication Union (ATU) for ITU WRC 23 and stressed the need for ICAO to provide as usual the compatibility matrix on the Preparatory Meeting of the Conference (CMP) report by 10 November 2023, to facilitate further State discussions with their national telecommunications regulations.

AIM area

2.23. The meeting discussed the requirement for Exchange of aeronautical data and aeronautical information in a mutually agreed form between States' AIS and identified challenges in the implementation of the said requirement including the lack of points of contact for the arrangement of reciprocal exchange among States. The meeting identified that the NCPI and AIM Focal points can serve as points of contacts for the Reciprocal exchange of Aeronautical information products and requested the Secretariat the avail the list of nominated NCPIs and Technical areas focal points to all the States. To this end, the following draft conclusion was formulated.

Draft Conclusion 26/xx Reciprocal exchange of Aeronautical information products

That,

In continuation of the actions called upon by APIRG/24 Conclusion 24/22 on the nomination of National Coordinators for Planning and Implementation (NCPIs) and technical areas focal points, and to facilitate the availability of the required Aeronautical information from other States at their designated AIS office,

a) States to task their nominated NCPI and AIM focal points to coordinate with their counterparts from other States for the reciprocal exchange of Aeronautical information products as appropriate; and

b) ICAO Regional Offices to publish on their websites the list of nominated NCPIs and technical areas Focal points.

MET area

Second Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region

2.24. The meeting was updated on the outcomes of the Second Meeting of the AFI VOLCEX Steering Group held virtually in July 2023 and noted that the 2023 volcanic ash (VA) exercise is scheduled in December 2023 under the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting went on to encourage the DRC and all the stakeholders in the preparations for the VA 2023 event, which should take place by the end of the year.

Upcoming changes to the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) data sets in 2023 and 2024

2.25. The meeting was updated on the upcoming changes to the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) data sets in 2023 and 2024 as well as the SADIS and WIFS systems that are used to deliver the data. All these changes are related to Amendment 81 to ICAO Annex 3, now due for implementation in November 2024. To continue delivering the new WAFS data sets to users effectively, an update to the SADIS system is being developed. Users and Service Providers need to be prepared to these changes to ensure a continued provision and use of meteorological information as required. The following conclusion was formulated accordingly.

Draft Conclusion 26/xx - Implementation of upcoming changes in the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) data sets and introduction of SWIM compliant version of Secure Aviation Data Information Service (SADIS).

That,

To prepare States and stakeholders for the implementation of upcoming amendments to Annex 3 related to changes in the WAFS data and SADIS system, the Secretariat, in coordination with the AFI WAFS Service Provider State (WAFC London), to organize awareness workshops on the changes to the WAFS data sets and the introduction of a SWIM compliant version of SADIS by 28 February 2024.

Project for the Cooperative Development of Aeronautical Meteorology in Africa-Indian Ocean Region (CODEVMET-AFI)

2.26. The meeting was updated on the progress made in the implementation of the Project for the Cooperative Development of Aeronautical Meteorology Services in Africa-Indian Ocean Region (CODEVMET-AFI) and noted that major activities were achieved, including the development and validation of the project implementation packages, the ongoing assistance to beneficiary States in the implementation of project planned activities. The meeting noted implementation progress of up to 63% and encouraged states and organizations to support the project to address critical air navigation deficiencies in MET in the region.

Air Navigation Deficiencies

Management of air navigation deficiencies

2.27. The meeting noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat organized a webinar on the management of air navigation deficiencies from 14 to 16 March 2023, which provided participants with knowledge on the process of air navigation deficiency management and familiarized them with the use of the AANDD platform for the identification, notification, assessment, and resolution of air navigation deficiencies. A kick-off meeting was held on 17th May 2023, to launch officially the operational use of the AANDD to manage air navigation deficiencies. Participants were provided with a refreshment on Signing up for User accounts on the AANDD, as well as on the deficiency management process. The meeting having noted that the tool is now fully operational, urged States and Organizations to embark in the effective management of air navigation deficiencies through the online platform.

Status of Air Navigation Deficiencies in CNS, AIM and MET fields

2.28. In response to APIRG Conclusion 25/30 (APIRG/25) calling on States and organisations to start identifying and reporting air navigation deficiencies to their ICAO-accredited regional offices, the meeting noted that two (2) draft air navigation deficiencies have been reported in AIM and MET areas, as indicated in the Appendix 5 to this working paper and the processing is underway. The meeting encouraged States and key stakeholders to report on air navigation deficiencies through the AANDD tool to their accredited Regional Offices.

Update of the Minimum Reporting Areas

2.29. The meeting discussed the updating of the minimum reporting areas in consistency with Basic Building Blocks (BBBs). Knowing that the minimum reporting areas establishing the framework to identify and notify air navigation deficiencies, are closely related to the BBB and noting that the BBBs provided in the GANP Portal were updated to include amongst others, QMS in AIM as well as generic provisions in MET, the meeting agreed on the subsequent update of the Minimum reporting areas as provided in Appendix 6 to this working paper. The meeting formulated the following decision accordingly.

Draft Decision 26/xx Endorsement of the updated minimum reporting Areas

That,

To provide a comprehensive framework for the identification, reporting and resolution of air navigation deficiencies, the updated minimum reporting areas provided in Appendix 6 to this working paper are approved.

Implementation challenges of the Sub-group

2.30. The meeting noted with concerns, the lack of participation of designated experts from States and Organizations and stressed the need to ensure the effective participation of their officials in project activities. The meeting also urged PTC to strengthen collaboration and coordination in the implementation of project activities.

Activities to be coordinated with the AAO/SG and RASG-AFI SSTs

2.31. The meeting deliberated on this agenda item and noted that no conclusion and/or decision have been taken that require the attention of the RASG-AFI SST. However, the meeting noted that the work programme of APIRG IIM/SG for 2023/2024 as provided in Appendix 7 to this working paper requires coordination with the AAO/SG, in particular, the completion of tasks 2 and 4 of the work programme on the implementation of ASBU elements and the conduct of the IIM/SG7 meeting.

Proposed recommendations/actions to be taken by ICAO HQ

2.32. Under this agenda item, no action requiring the attention of ICAO HQ has been identified.

Review of the Terms of Reference and the Work Programme of the Sub-Group

2.33. The meeting discussed the matters related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Work programme of the Subgroup. Regarding the ToR, the meeting noted that tasks as described in the ToR, do not cover all the activities in area of CNS, AIM and MET. In this regard, the meeting set up a task force composed of Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and ASECNA to review the ToR of the Subgroup, Kenya being the lead of the that task force. The meeting then reviewed and updated the work programme of the IIM Sub-Group as provided in the Appendix 7 to this working paper. The meeting formulated the following draft decisions accordingly.

Draft Decision 26/xx Revision of the Terms of reference of the IIM Sub-Group

That,

To ensure that the functions and activities of the Sub-Group are consistently defined, the task force composed of Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, and ASECNA be established to review Terms of reference (ToR) of the IIM/SG and submit the revised ToR to the Chair and Vice-chair by 15 September 2023, for consideration and submission to APIRG.

Draft Decision 26/xx Work Programme of APIRG IIM/SG for 2023/2024

That,

The Work Programme of APIRG IIM/SG for 2023/2024 as provided in Appendix 7 is approved.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

a) Take note of the information presented in this working paper, highlighting the work achieved by the Sixth Meeting of the APIRG IIM/SG; and

b) Review and approve the draft conclusions and decisions and the Report of APIRG IIM/SG6 Meeting.

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