International Civil Aviation Organization
NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE
Twentieth Eastern Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/20)
Miami, Florida, United States 4-7 December 2006

Agenda Item 3:   **Air Navigation Matters**
                   3.6   Other Air Navigation Issues

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIR POLICY GROUP AND CANAS

(Presented by Barbados)

SUMMARY
This Working Paper seeks to inform on the existence of the E/CAR FIR Policy Group and the Caribbean Air Navigation Advisory Services (CANAS), and to establish a relationship between ICAO and these entities.

1.   Introduction

1.1   The environment of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR) Region came under severe adaptation pressure when the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) implemented CNS/ATM systems. The impact of CNS/ATM was so significant that the structure and management of the FIR came into sharp focus. There was no cohesive decision making methodology since the management system was sectorised with a private contractor making important decision on behalf of Regional Governments.

1.2   Such an arrangement was undesirable and unacceptable in a modern aviation community. To arrest the situation and to bring some regularity to the matter the Directors of Civil Aviation established a group called the "FIR Policy Group" to act on the behalf of Regional Government. This group was charged with the responsibility for the socio, technical and legal issues of the FIR. Also a Trinidad and Tobago Government owned private entity called Caribbean Air Navigation and Advisory Services (CANAS), was also established to cater to the economic affairs of the FIR.

2.   Fact

2.1   The FIR Policy Group and CANAS have been fully functional since January 2005, when the operation of the private contractor Intercaribbean Aeronautical Communications Ltd. (IACL) was terminated. The groups have now matured and a relationship with ICAO needs to be established.

3. **Action required**

3.1   The Meeting is requested to take note of the two entities established in the Region called the FIR Policy Group and CANAS.

3.2.   ICAO should take the necessary action to establish a relationship with the FIR Policy Group and CANAS.

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