



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization  
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

INFORMATION PAPER

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**Thirteenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting  
(NACC/DCA/13)**

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, 4 al 7 de agosto de 2025

**Agenda Item 5: Towards More Effective Implementation: Air Navigation Services (ANS)  
Capacity and Efficiency**

**AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES (ANS) IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES: REGIONAL PROGRESS ON AIRSPACE  
OPTIMIZATION, AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT (ATFM), AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THROUGH  
FREE ROUTE AIRSPACE (FRA) INITIATIVES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Information Paper provides an update on recent progress in ANS implementation within the NAM/CAR Regions. Key developments include the consolidation of the Airspace Optimization and ATFM Task Forces, the ongoing implementation of FRA with measurable environmental and economic benefits, regional Key Performance Indicator (KPI) alignment efforts, and the development of new collaborative tools such as digital dashboards and space operations coordination. These efforts directly support ICAO's Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG), Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU), and the principle of "No Country Left Behind."

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li><li>• Environmental Protection</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary of Discussions, AO/TF/5 – ATFM/TF/7 – CIIFRA/9, (Orlando, United States, March 2025)</li><li>• ICAO GANP and ASBU Framework</li><li>• CANSO IATA ICAO Free Route Airspace (CIIFRA) Environmental Efficiency Reports</li><li>• State Letter E.OSG-NACC116216 on Flight Information Regions (FIR) Boundaries and Capabilities</li></ul>

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The ICAO NACC Regional Office continues to lead and coordinate Air Navigation Services (ANS) modernization efforts across the region. Through the work of the newly consolidated Airspace Management and Capacity Balancing (AMCB) Task Force, significant steps have been taken in the areas of airspace optimization, ATFM enhancement, and environmental efficiency through the CIIFRA initiative.

## **2. FRA and Environmental Impact**

2.1 Mexico's MMID Area Control Centre (ACC) is launching its FRA trial in August 2025. Preliminary studies show:

- 55 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> saved per FRA flight
- 1.65 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> saved daily (~50 metric tons/month)
- Annualized environmental benefit valued between USD 9,000–30,700

2.2 These metrics support ICAO's LTAG environmental goals and demonstrate the operational value of FRA in the NAM/CAR Regions.

## **3. Task Force Consolidation and Strategic Planning**

3.1 During the March 2025 meeting hosted by JetBlue in Orlando, States endorsed the merger of the Airspace Optimization and ATFM Task Forces into the AMCB Task Force.

3.2 A five-year roadmap was adopted with the following milestones:

- Year 1: Implementation plans and State commitment
- Year 2: Technical workshops
- Year 3: Initial FRA and ATFM launches
- Year 4: Mid-term review
- Year 5: Full operational capability

## **4. ATFM Enhancements and Data-Driven Metrics**

4.1 Notable ATFM updates include:

- CANSO Air Traffic Flow Management Data Exchange Network for the Americas (CADENA)-supported regional coordination for major events (FIFA 2025, World Cup 2026)
- High-Intensity Runway Operations (HIRO) concept and workshop planning
- Draft Conclusions on demand-capacity data sharing modelled after Brazil's ATFM practices.

4.2 CAR Performance Indicators (CARPIs) are being realigned with ICAO KPIs to support transparent, performance-based decisions.

## **5. Cross-Border Collaboration and System Accuracy**

5.1 ICAO issued a State Letter requesting FIR boundary data updates. As of July 2025, 57% of States/Territories have responded.

5.2 Additional coordination with the SAM Region is underway to harmonize ATFM procedures and guidance material, particularly under Project NEOSPACE and CIIFRA.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 The progress achieved in FRA, ATFM, and ANS implementation highlights the region's growing alignment with ICAO strategic objectives. Continued collaboration, data sharing, and commitment to modernization will be critical in achieving full interoperability and operational excellence in the NAM/CAR Regions.

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