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WORKING PAPER

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**Tenth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/10)**  
Tulum, Mexico, from 8 to 12 September 2025

**Agenda Item 4: Presentation of NACC/WG Task Forces**

**FREQ TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD 2023-2025**

(Presented by FREQ/TF Rapporteur)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
This working paper presents an update of the activities of the FREQ Task Force according to its work plan.	
Action:	List of actions in section 8
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Twenty-first Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/21), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.</li><li>• First North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Frequency Task Force (FREQ/TF/01) Meeting. Online, May 22nd, 2024, from 9 to 12 hours, Mexico time (15-18 UTC).</li><li>• Ninth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/9), ICAO NACC Regional Office, Mexico City, Mexico, 30 September to 4 October 2024.</li><li>• Third Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/03)</li><li>• Twenty-Second Meeting of the Regional Planning and Implementation Group for the Caribbean and South America (GREPECAS/22)</li><li>• FSMP website (Documents section) <a href="http://www.icao.int/safety/fsmp">http://www.icao.int/safety/fsmp</a></li></ul>

## 1. Introduction

1.1 For the 2023-2025 period the NACC FREQ Task Force focused on elaborating the project by reinforcing the following essential activities to be implemented:

- a) Carry out the necessary activities for the establishment of the Project at the regional level.
- b) Update the information on aeronautical frequency assignment in the CAR/SAM Regions.
- c) Establish/update the regional frequency assignment procedure.
- d) Propose a regional training programme on aeronautical frequencies management
- e) Establish follow-up and evaluation mechanisms for ITU WRC topics.

1.2 The GREPECAS/21 meeting published two important conclusions related to the reinforcement of the measures to be taken to create awareness and improve the management of the aeronautical spectrum within the Civil Aviation community through the member states by allocating the necessary resources.

1.3 To accomplish these objectives ICAO has put available to the member states in order to well manage and defend the Aviation spectrum:

- **ICAO Frequency Spectrum Strategy.** - A High-level vision on existing and future spectrum requirements in support of the evolving CNS systems and infrastructure requirements.
- **ICAO Frequency Policy Statements.** - Statements of official policy on each and every frequency band used by aeronautical systems for the provision of CNS.
- **ICAO Position for WRC.** - ICAO Position on the specific agenda items of the upcoming ITU WRC (Worlds Radio Conference) to ensure that aeronautical requirements and safety concerns are met.
- **Assembly Resolution A41-7.**- Strategy for establishing and promoting the ICAO WRC Position and frequency spectrum management strategy.

1.3 The GREPACAS/22 meeting highlighted the need to defend aviation access to the radio spectrum at WRC-27 to ensure the safety and efficiency of global air traffic. It also called on States and organizations to support ICAO's position in international negotiations and to consider the implications if essential frequency bands are not protected.

## 2. FREQ/TF activities for the 2023-2025 period

2.1 The FREQ TF through the work done with several states of the NACC region was able to finalize the update of ICAO COM Lists 1, 2 and 3 and they are published on the ICAO NACC website.

<https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/frequency.aspx>

2.2 Most of the States being part of the MEVA III network designated their point of contact for the management of their aeronautical frequency spectrum. The FREQ/TF rapporteur has suggested to the NACC regional office to extend this PoC list to the other countries of the region figuring on the COM lists for a better harmonization of the work to be done.

2.3 On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, The FREQ Task force had its first official meeting online (FREQ/TF/01). The Meeting was attended by 29 delegates from 11 States/Territories. Its purpose was, mainly, to follow up on the results of the 23rd World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) and discuss the TF work plan activities toward the provisional agenda of WRC-27. In addition, the FREQ TF proposed the meeting to create two Ad hoc groups, one to work on the frequency finder and spectrum regulation; the other to assess Annex 10 vol. VI, which talk about the Communication Systems and procedures relating to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems C2 Link.

2.4 On July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025, the FREQ/TF shared with its PoCs the State Letter **Ref.: E 3/5-25/65**, which contained the official *“ICAO Position for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (2027) (WRC-27)”*.

### 3. ICAO Position for ITU WRC-27

3.1 With Over **1 GHz** of frequency spectrum in global allocations to aeronautical safety services, recognising that the effort on aeronautical spectrum utilisation and protection shall only be enabled by the active participation and implementation of States. It is, therefore, suggested to the member states of the region to start working closely with their respective spectrum Authority to prepare the next WRC-27 so that Aviation could have a stronger presence and to ensure aeronautical access to appropriately protected spectrum for radiocommunication and radionavigation systems that support current and future safety-of-flight applications.

3.2 States and Int Orgs are requested to take into account the ICAO Position for WRC-27, to the maximum extent possible,

- **in their preparation activities for the WRC-27 at the national level.** - by including aviation experts both in the development of said positions, and as part of their national delegations to WRC-27.
- **in the activities of the regional telecommunication organizations.** - National telecommunications authorities co-ordinate their position through regional organizations like CITEC for the CAR/SAM region. Aviation representatives may not be allowed to speak up as the National Frequency Spectrum Authority has only “one official position”. But ICAO is allowed to participate.
- **in the relevant meetings of the ITU.** - National telecommunications authorities co-ordinate their position through the ITU-R Study Groups.

3.3 One of the essential tasks of the FREQ TF will be to inform and guide the region member states through the WRC-27 preparation process which is composed of four essential steps after the agenda was submitted by the WRC-23:

- The two CPMs (Conference Preparatory Meeting):
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> session CPM27-1 occurred right after the WRC-23 on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> session CPM27-2, hypothetically between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2027.
- The ITU-R studies period which will take place during the next two years following the CPM27-1, from January 2024 to October 2026. They make sure that all interference scenarios are analyzed and cleared, to keep interference within manageable limits
- Final meetings of regional groups, preparation of proposals, which will need to take place between the CPM27-2 and the actual WRC-27 venue.

#### **4. Radio Altimeters issues**

4.1 On March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025, ICAO hosted a webinar on the operation of radio altimeters in the 4200-4400 MHz frequency band and safety, in preparation for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (2027) (WRC-27).

4.2 The Radio Altimeter is a critical avionics system that has enabled modern aviation's excellent safety record. Aircrafts need to operate safely in all phases of flight globally.

4.3 Work at the ITU-R for the WRC-27 may create several risks for the radio altimeter unless appropriate spectrum studies are conducted. ICAO recommended operational and technical parameters should be accounted for in these studies.

#### **5. Harmful interference on GNSS systems**

5.1 On March 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, ICAO published a joint statement with ITU and IMO, urging states and their respective regions to urgently enhance their protection of the critical radio-frequency band, due to increasing incidents of interference with aviation, maritime and telecommunications services. Those harmful interferences, in the form of jamming and spoofing, disrupt the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) operating in the frequency bands allocated to the Radio Navigation Satellite Service (RNSS).

5.2 The joint statement suggests five key actions to states to mitigate the disruptions of services over GNSS aeronautical and maritime systems:

1. Protection of RNSS from harmful interference affecting civilian and humanitarian operations
2. Strengthening resilience of RNSS-dependent navigation, positioning, and timing systems
3. Maintaining conventional navigation infrastructure for contingency support
4. Enhancing collaboration between regulatory, aviation, maritime, defense, and enforcement authorities
5. Implementing comprehensive interference reporting mechanisms

5.3 To follow-up on the issue, the ICAO NACC office hosted the *Radio Navigation Workshop for NAM and SAM Regions*, from 2 to 4 September 2025; to discuss challenges and exchange best practices related to GNSS radio frequency interference (RFI) including its impact and mitigation strategies adopted by various stakeholders.

## 6. Conclusion

The FREQ/TF of the NACC/WG is fully aware of the challenges ahead in terms of aeronautical frequency management in the region, and it also requires the full support of the states putting available their experts to execute the action plan and help monitor the aeronautical spectrum for the different services.

## 7. Action Plan

The Action Plan of the FREQ/TF for the year 2025-2026:

- Finalize the FREQ/TF Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Create awareness amongst the member states for better frequency management
- Follow-up with the Ad hoc group to work on the Frequency Finder
- Plan more trainings with the Regional Office for the Frequency Finder
- Follow-up with member States on the preparation for WRC-27
- Follow-up with the Ad hoc group to assess Annex 10 Vol VI

## 8. Suggested actions

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in this working paper
- b) Recommend any additional action deemed necessary