



ICAO

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

WORKING PAPER

AMCB/TF/2/CIIFRA/11 — WP/05
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**Second Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group
(NACC/WG) Airspace Management and Capacity Balancing Task Force and Eleventh Meeting of the
CANSO IATA ICAO Free Route Airspace Team
(CIIFRA) (AMCB/TF/2/CIIFRA/11)
Mexico City, Mexico, 20 to 24 April 2026**

Agenda Item 5: Regional Initiatives and Technical Progress of the AMCB Task Force

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS OF THE AMCB TASK FORCE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper highlights ongoing regional initiatives and technical progress under the AMCB Task Force. It reflects contributions from the subtasks ad hoc groups and emphasizes progress in airspace optimization, ATFM integration, and emerging operational areas.	
Action:	Under section 5
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every Flight is Safe and Secure• Aviation is Environmentally Sustainable• Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All• No Country Left Behind• The International Civil Aviation Convention and Other Treaties, Laws and Regulations Address All Challenges• The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well Being for All
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CANSO IATA ICAO Free Route Airspace (CIIFRA) Initiatives• CANSO Air Traffic Flow Management Data Exchange Network for the Americas (CADENA) Regional Activities• Caribbean/South American Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS) Reports

1. Introduction

1.1 The AMCB Task Force continues to support regional implementation efforts aimed at improving airspace efficiency and operational performance.

2. Key Regional Initiatives and Progress

2.1 Airspace Optimization (Free Route Airspace FRA/ and Strategic Direct Routing SDR)

- Expansion of cross-border routing initiatives has been observed in key city-pairs, including Mexico–Central America flows and Caribbean–North America interfaces, where preliminary trajectory improvements have reduced route extensions and improved predictability.
- Priority city-pairs and routes have been identified through CIIFRA collaboration, focusing on high-density traffic flows and operational constraints. Initial assessments indicate fuel savings and reduced flight time variability.
- Strategic Direct Routing (SDR) initiatives are being evaluated as transitional steps toward full Free Route Airspace (FRA) implementation in selected FIRs.

2.2 ATFM and Regional Coordination (CADENA)

- Data exchange and coordination mechanisms have been strengthened through increased participation in CADENA, enabling improved situational awareness and demand-capacity balancing across participating States.
- Additional ANSPs from the CAR Region have actively engaged in coordination calls and data-sharing exercises, enhancing regional interoperability and collaborative decision-making (CDM).
- These efforts have resulted in more structured pre-tactical planning and improved response to operational disruptions.

2.3 Air Navigation Services (ANS) Capabilities and Data Initiatives

- The development of the regional ANS capabilities database is progressing as a foundational tool to support performance monitoring, gap analysis, and data-driven decision-making.
- This initiative aligns with ICAO GANP priorities and Assembly objectives, including ASBU implementation, performance-based planning (APTA), and regional harmonization.
- The database is expected to support future dashboard development and integration with platforms such as iSTARS.

2.4 Emerging Operations (including Space Activities)

- Increased awareness has been established regarding the impact of space operations on ATM, with initial steps toward regional coordination and capacity-building initiatives.
- Planned workshops and knowledge-sharing activities will support States in understanding operational risks and integration requirements.

- Additional focus areas include contingency planning, GNSS vulnerabilities (including jamming), and Minimum Operational Network (MON) considerations to ensure operational resilience.

3. Supporting Operational Context

3.1 Major regional events, including large-scale international operations, continue to highlight the importance of coordinated air traffic flow management (ATFM) measures, airspace optimization, and cross-border collaboration.

3.2 These operational drivers—including major international events, increasing traffic demand, and emerging complexities—highlight the need for a structured and proactive regional approach under the AMCB Task Force.

AMCB is addressing this through coordinated efforts integrating airspace optimization (FRA/SDR), ATFM implementation, and data-driven decision-making via initiatives such as CIIFRA and CADENA, aligned with ICAO priorities including GANP, ASBU, and “No Country Left Behind.”

4. Conclusion

4.1 The AMCB Task Force has made measurable progress in advancing regional priorities. Continued engagement through the ad hoc groups will be essential to sustain momentum and achieve long-term objectives.

5. Action by the Meeting:

5.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the progress achieved under AMCB initiatives;
- b) encourage continued participation from States and partners; and
- c) identify additional opportunities for collaboration.