

P/15 Agenda Item 6 Planning for and Response to Contingencies and Emergency Situations in Central America

Strengthening the regional resilience of Air Navigation Services

COCESNA · NACC/DCA/14 · Antigua and Barbuda

Purpose of the Presentation

➤ *Present a regional initiative aligned with resilience, continuity and cooperation*

Continuity of ANS services requires updated, interoperable, and tested plans before an emergency occurs.



Making a strategic priority visible

COESNA incorporated the contingency planning update into its strategic and operational planning.



Present a practical regional approach

Emergency response depends on coordination between COESNA, States, adjacent FIRs and international agencies.



Supporting the 2026 Regional Workshop

The workshop with ICAO/MCAAP support will review, update and harmonize ATM/CNS contingency plans.



Connect to the NACC/DCA/14 agenda

The initiative responds to the regional interest in homogeneous, interoperable and crisis-ready ANS.

What do we mean by ANS contingency?

- *An event that affects the ability to provide safe, orderly, and efficient air navigation services.*

A contingency can be caused by:

- Communication or surveillance failures
- Technical problems or infrastructure degradation
- Loss or limitation of key personnel
- Natural phenomena and climate emergencies
- Cyber threats and other crisis scenarios



Potential impact

Interruption or degradation of the continuity, safety and efficiency of air navigation services.

The response must be planned, coordinated, documented, exercised and aligned with the current operational reality.

Contingency is already a strategic priority

- *COCESNA's 2026 operational plan includes specific milestones to update, test, and strengthen contingency plans*

Operational Objective: Develop more robust contingency plans to address extreme weather events and operational crises."



Update plans

Review and reinforce existing plans for operational crises, weather events, and technology failures.



Conduct drills

Design and execute local, regional and multinational exercises with relevant actors.



Strengthen coordination

Formalize communication and cooperation mechanisms with local and international authorities.



Regional workshop

Review and update the ATM/CNS Plan of COCESNA and the Member States.

Key scenario: ATS service interruption from CENAMER

- 1 Disruptive Event:** CENAMER is out of service or ATS capacity is degraded.
- 2 Immediate continuity:** Member States temporarily provide ATS within their respective jurisdictions.
- 3 Prolonged contingency:** Activation of the Backup Control Center located at ICCAE.
- 4 Recovery:** Controlled return to normal service, with information to users and dependencies.

The key is not only to have backup facilities, but also to ensure that States, COCESNA, and adjacent agencies know when, how, and under which procedures each phase is activated

Actions during the contingency phase

➤ *An effective response combines procedures, coordination, aeronautical information and recovery*

1  **Activate responsibilities**

Temporary provision of ATS by Member States within their respective airspaces.

2  **Apply routes and procedures**

Use of contingency routes, coordination with adjacent ANSPs, and application of defined operational measures

3  **Formally inform**

Issuance of NOTAMs on service impacts, applicable measures, and the estimated date of service resumption.

4  **Maintain continuous communication**

Provide information to aircraft, States, adjacent FIRs, and relevant stakeholders during activation, operation, and recovery

Pre-preparation = clarity of command + known roles + proven procedures + timely information

Regional cooperation: the basis of resilience

➤ *Joint agreements and procedures reduce operational impacts during emergencies*



Existing agreements

COCESNA has bilateral agreements with AHAC (Honduras) and BDCA (Belize) for joint procedures, facilities and responsibilities.



Regional network under development

The objective is to expand collaboration to cover all Central American states and strengthen the collective response.



Regional benefit

Increased ANS resilience, reduced operational impact, improved air traffic safety, and greater trust among authorities

Contingency planning in Central America should be understood as a shared regional capability, not as the sum of isolated plans.

Why update plans now?

➤ *Plans should reflect the current operational, technological and risk environment*

Technology and infrastructure: Evolution of CNS/ATM systems, backup capabilities, automation, surveillance, and communications.

Emerging risks: Extreme weather events, cyber threats, technological failures, social disruptions and personnel limitations.

Lessons learned: Recent events allow for the adjustment of aeronautical procedures, roles, coordination, communication and information.

Interoperability: Need to harmonize procedures among upper airspace, national airspace, and adjacent FIRs..

Lessons Learned and Regional Recommendation

- NAM/CAR/CONT/5 identified the need for a new regional workshop in 2026

Background

In 2019, ICAO held a workshop in Tegucigalpa to develop national contingency plans and the regional contingency plan, with good results.

Key Participants

Central American States, COCESNA, States and ANSPs adjacent to the Central American FIR, ICAO, IATA, CANSO and other interested parties.

Current need

Lessons learned, the evolution of SLAs, and emerging risks and threats make it necessary to review and update contingency plans in 2026



Value of the recommendation

The 2026 workshop will transform lessons learned into updated, harmonized, and technically validated procedures.

2026 Regional Workshop with ICAO/MCAAP Support

➤ *MAP 09-2026: Development of Regional Contingency Plans for the CAR Region*

Proposed Technical Scope

- Evaluate and update the national ATM plans of the States.
- Update the COCESNA ATM Contingency Plan.
- Incorporate new scenarios and current CNS capabilities.
- Harmonize procedures between upper and lower space.

Format

Face-to-face regional workshop with technical sessions, scenario analysis, template review, collaborative work and joint validation.

Support

Participation of representatives of MCAAP members and an ICAO Regional Officer; Interpreting and document translation.

Location / Duration

San Salvador, El Salvador
Five business days
Third quarter of 2026

Deliverables and Expected Results

➤ *The initiative should produce practical instruments and strengthen regional capacity.*

<p>❑ Updated ATM CAR Regional Plan Revised regional framework aligned with the current operational context.</p>	<p>❑ New scenarios incorporated Cyberattacks, CNS failures, weather events, earthquakes, social crises and others.</p>
<p>❑ Updated National Plans States with revised, harmonized and technically consistent plans.</p>	<p>❑ Updated COCESNA Plan ATM/CNS contingency plan adjusted to current scenarios and capacities.</p>
<p>❑ Harmonized procedures Coordination between upper airspace, national spaces and adjacent FIR.</p>	<p>❑ Regional recommendations Roadmap for implementation, validation, testing, and tracking.</p>

Strategic outcome: Move from existing plans to an integrated, coordinated, tested, and verifiable regional capability.

Alignment with the NACC/DCA/14 Agenda

➤ *The initiative is aligned with ANS, safety, resilience, and regional cooperation priorities.*



Harmonized and interoperable ANS

The NACC/DCA/14 agenda includes air navigation implementation, preparedness, and crisis management.



Collaborative approaches

Contingency planning requires information sharing, technical coordination, and risk mitigation.




Delegation and regional cooperation

COESNA's experience demonstrates how a regional mechanism can support States in maintaining critical capabilities

Proposal Action for Directors

1  **Support, participate in, and sustain the regional plan update process.**

Confirm the strategic value of reviewing and updating ATM/CNS plans of COCESNA and States.

2  **Appoint qualified technical representatives**

Participants should have operational knowledge, technical expertise, and the authority to coordinate follow-up actions

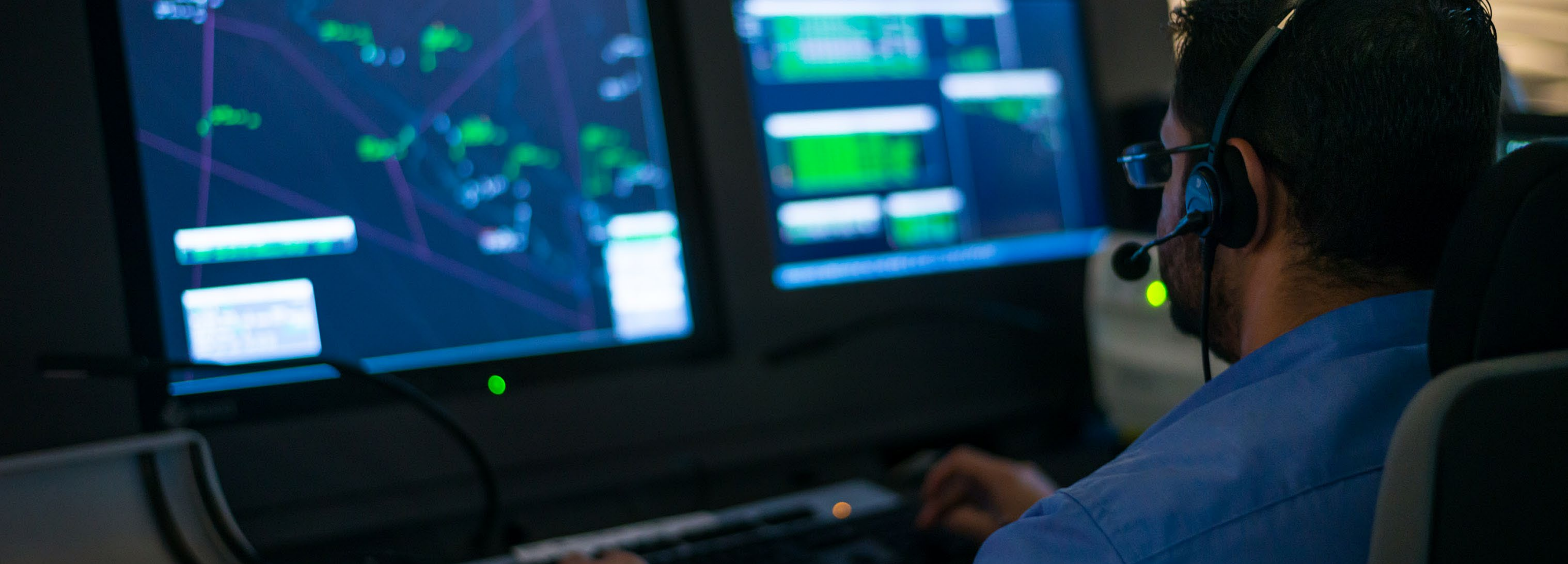
3  **Provide up-to-date information**

Current plans, agreements, CNS capabilities, routes, scenarios, responsible parties and activation mechanisms.

4  **Ensure follow-up**

Ensure implementation, validation, testing, and verification that the plans can be effectively activated.

Updating the plans is not the end of the process; it is the beginning of a continuous regional cycle of preparation, exercises, improvement, and verification



THANK YOU