



ICAO

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WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/11— WP/10
16/09/26

Eleventh Meeting of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/11)

Guatemala City, Guatemala, September 21-25, 2026

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of progress on the action plans of the Task Groups comprising the NACC/WG and progress on regional work

STATUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

(Presented by the COMM/TF Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper tracks the activities to which the efforts of the Communications Task Group (COMM/TF) of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) have been directed in order to fulfill its action plan in the period 2025-2026.	
Action:	Please see paragraph 4 of this working paper
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	• Every Flight is Safe and Secure • Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All • The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All
<i>References:</i>	• Tenth Meeting of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/10) Tulum, Mexico, September 8-12, 2025 • Forty-First Meeting of the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF/41) of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), online, December 3-4, 2025 • Forty-Second Meeting of the Communications Task Group (COMM/TF/42) of the North America, Central America and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), Mexico City, Mexico, August 24-28, 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 The Action Plan of the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF) of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) includes key activities aimed at improving and ensuring the operation of the MEVA III network as a support for regional Air Navigation Services (ANS), focusing efforts on supporting its modernization; updating contingency procedures, as well as contributing to the regional adoption strategy for the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the dissemination of OPMET data via the ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) to system-wide information management environments (IT SWIM).

1.1. The COMM/TF/41 Meeting, held from December 3 to 4, 2025, online, reviewed the operation and performance of the MEVA III network during the period March 2024–December 2025, planning for the upcoming service provision period, as well as the follow-up on implementation activities for Project RLA22801, “Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network” (CANSNET). It also analyzed the urgent need to update and consolidate the communications contingency plans of MEVA members and established specific actions to that end. It also presented and discussed the regional strategy to prepare for the operational dissemination of OPMET data via AMHS in IWXXM format to the Regional OPMET Center (ROC) in Washington, in support of Decision NACC/WG/10/04 ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IWXXM OPMET DATA DISSEMINATION.

1.2. The COMM/TF/42 meeting, held from August 24 to 28, 2026, Mexico City, Mexico, combined technical training activities for CANSNET members in preparation for the Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) with the coordination of implementation efforts and the analysis of the operation and performance of the MEVA III network during the period from December 2025 to August 2026.

1. Discussion

2.1. The process of signing the individual CANSNET contracts for project members took much longer than planned. The main cause lay in the internal procedures that the member organizations had to follow. The State of Mexico has yet to sign, but the supplier agreed to begin the implementation process, establishing a timeline (Appendix A) that calls for the new network to become operational no later than April 1, 2027. Since this date depends on the supplier’s delivery schedules for the equipment, there could be delays that would affect CANSNET’s entry into service by the scheduled date. In such a case, Frequentis committed to notifying the members in a timely manner.

2.2. The extension of MEVA III services until March 31, 2026, expired without the CANSNET network becoming operational. Members agreed to sign a new extension agreement until March 2027, adopting Conclusion “COMM/TF/41/02 EXTENSION OF THE MEVA III SERVICES AGREEMENT (1 APR 2026 – 31 MAR 2027)”. All agreements were signed in a timely manner.

2.3. The new service period presents new challenges for MEVA III. It was determined that the transition to a new satellite must be completed by July 31, 2026—the recommended date—given that IS14, which currently supports the system, will be decommissioned. This transition will require reorienting antennas and making adjustments to the hardware of the outdoor units (ODUs) at each of the nodes. During the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/42 meeting, the network provider explained that, to date, the re-pointing process has not begun, pending the mechanical solution that must be implemented at the nodes to ensure antenna stability. Frequentis reported that the nodes have not experienced any service disruptions, as the IS14 satellite’s operational window extends through the end of October.

2.4. For the new extension period, the MEVA III Venezuela node was deactivated. Taking into account the lessons learned from the Bogota node’s exit from the network, it was decided to implement voice channels with the CAR region—which that node had previously provided—through the solution integrating MEVA III, COCESNA, and the South American Digital Network (REDDIG II). To this end, Conclusion COMM/TF/41/03, “IMPLEMENTATION OF VOICE LINKS BETWEEN THE CAR STATES AND VENEZUELA THROUGH THE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF MEVA III, COCESNA, AND REDDIG,” was adopted. All links were implemented in a timely manner.

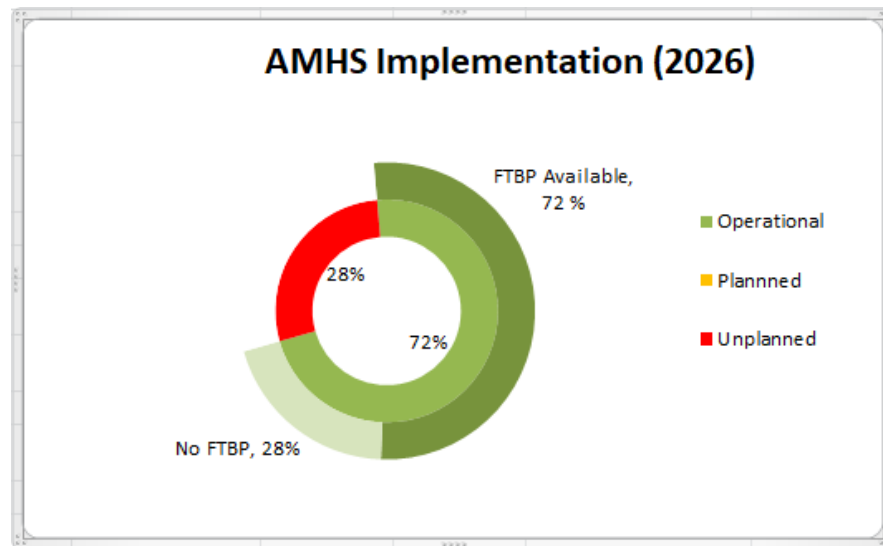
2.5. Updating and coordinating among MEVA III network members regarding the “Regional Voice and Data Communications Contingency Plan” is key to ensuring the operational continuity and resilience of CNS/ATM services in the Caribbean Region. Given that MEVA III will continue to operate for at least another year, the COMM/TF group adopted DECISION COMM/TF/41/04 “UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL VOICE AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS CONTINGENCY PLAN” and appointed an Ad-hoc group consisting of the Bahamas, Cuba, the United States, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic to update the MEVA Contingency Matrix, taking into account new scenarios and challenges.

2.6. The COMM/TF/41 meeting adopted DECISION NACC/WG/10/04 “ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPMET IWXXM DATA DISSEMINATION” in support of the strategy outlined by NACC/WG/10. To date, in coordination with the Meteorology Task Force (MET-TF), the following activities have been carried out:

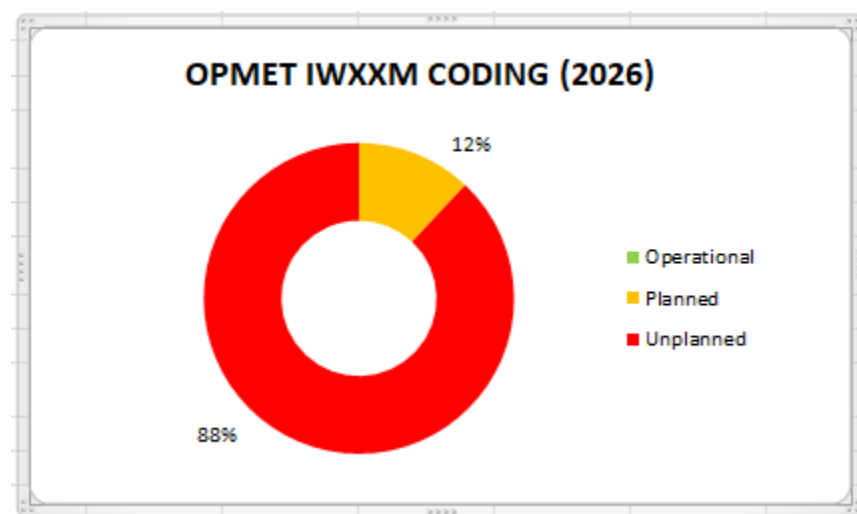
- Using the OPMET TAC-to-OPMET IWXXM converters in Cuba (NOC MUHA), tests were conducted to encode the OPMET TAC (METAR) reports issued by meteorological services in the CAR region into IWXXM format, after they were sent to Cuba from Washington via the Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS).
- IACC-FAA-NWS Phase III and IV Interoperability Tests. The XML files sent from Cuba to the FAA test environment were obtained from the translation described in section a).

2.7. Based on decisions NACC/WG/RAP/02/07 'UPDATE OF INFORMATION ON INDICATORS THAT MEASURE THE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES', and NACC/WG/10/18 'UPDATE OF THE NACC REGIONAL DASHBOARD', in support of the completion of the GREPECAS Dashboard, the COMM Task Group analyzed and updated the indicators related to the implementation of OPMET IWXXM data dissemination and the implementation of the ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) with its extended level of service.

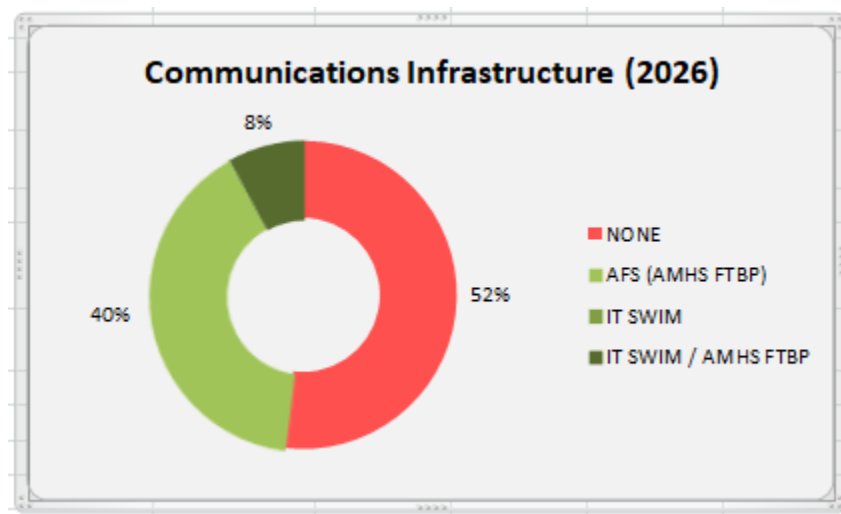
2.8. The AMHS is currently operational in 18 States, 13 of which support the GF FTBP. There are still 7 States that do not yet plan to implement this service.



2.9. As for the encoding of OPMET IWXXM data, only 3 States have planned to implement it by 2026, and none of them has been able to complete the implementation. The remaining 22 have not made any plans to do so.



2.10. Regarding the communications infrastructure planned for the dissemination of OPMET IWXXM data, 10 of the States plan to use the AMHS FTBP, while 2 of them also plan to publish the data on the associated SWIM IT.



3. Recommended Actions

3.1. The Meeting are kindly invited to:

- a) To take note of the information presented.

APÉNDICE

Cronograma de implementación de CANSNET

